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THE SPECTATOR

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College's Financial Situation Worsens

by Rebekah Mintzer '09
Senior Editor

No one has been left untouched by the recent economic crisis. Hamilton felt the financial crunch in the form of a large loss in endowment, which will result in budget cuts for the upcoming year. In a letter to college employees the Administration and Finance Department explained that the weakening of the investment market has caused Hamilton's endowment to lose some $250 million between October 2007 and November 2008.

The endowment loss is not a problem unique to Hamilton. A January 26 *New York Times* article explained that university endowment values have not decreased so quickly since the 1970s; that the drop is profoundly effecting institutions of higher education. Brandeis University, which was dramatically effected by both the worsening economy and the Madoff scam; has been forced to put its extensive art collection,

see ***Endowment,*** *page 2*

CAMPUS FREAKING OUT?

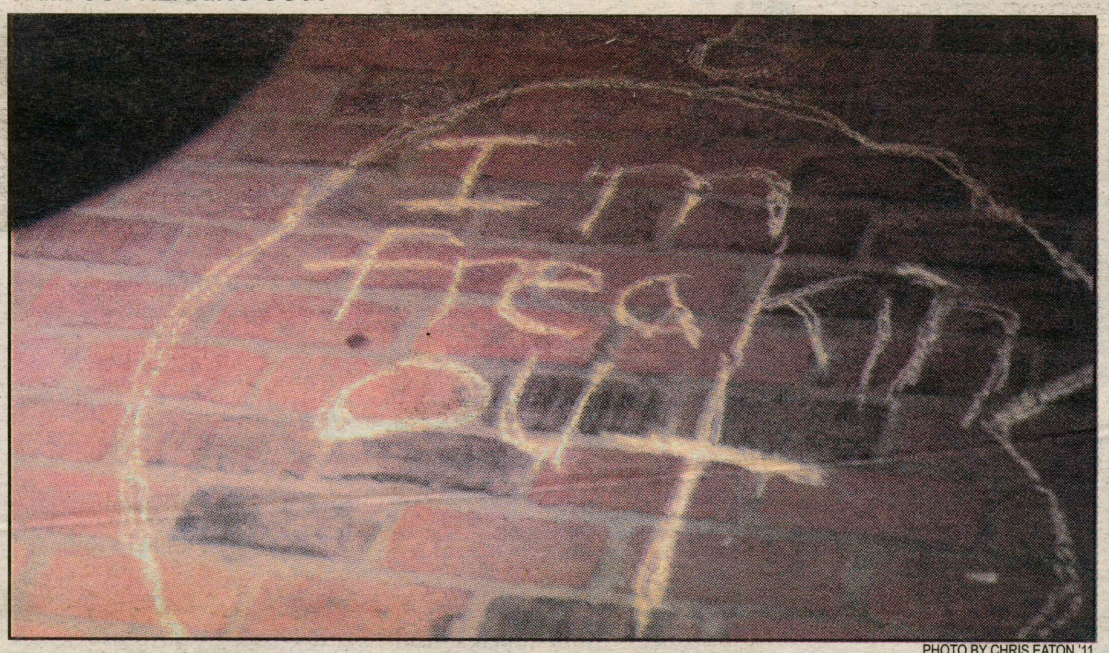


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

The messages were plastered across South Campus buildings early Sunday morning.

Progressive Art or Graffiti?

by Kate Tummarello '11
Managing Editor

The campus woke up Sunday morning to chalk drawings and words covering the campus from Martin's Way crosswalk to List Arts Center. Sayings including "We are all people, do we really need labels?" and "Cold is not a problem, racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism is," can be found on the sides of the Kirner Johnson Building and McEwen Dining Hall.

These drawings and words—statements about intolerance and ignorance here at Hamilton—were met with mixed reactions by the campus. Some students felt as though the chalk drawings were detrimental to the cause that motivated the artists.

Colin Clark '11 said, "I heard that the graffiti drawing was organized by members of some student organizations. If that's the case, they're just trivializing their cause by using an inappropriate forum to start a discussion of serious issues. It's too bad because if they focused on confronting these real problems in a mature way they might actually affect some change."

Some students were simply confused. Shaan Gajria '11 commented, "We're all people? That's self-evident. I'm having trouble trying to figure out what they're trying to articulate."

Confused about a table with "I'm a homosexual" written on it, Elijah LaChance '10 joked, "I don't get it. Is the table a homosexual?"

When asked for a statement for *The Spectator*, those responsible for the chalk drawings and writing responded with "If you're asking for a statement, you missed the point." Although some students, such as Cristina Garafola '11 who commented, "I think it's rad!" got the point, a statement might add some clarification for the college community.

Hamilton to Raze Womyn's Center

by Scott Bixby '11
News Editor

The date has been set: on June 15, 2009 the North and South Court buildings to the west of Soper Commons Dining Hall will be torn down. The buildings, which were originally constructed as horse stables but have since been converted into academic, cultural and athletic offices, will have their stone recycled for use in the future renovation of Emerson Hall. Questions still remain, however, regarding the future of the soon-to-be displaced Sociology Department and the Womyn's Center, which currently call the North and South Court home.

According to Amy Tannenbaum '10, former co-chair of the Womyn's Center, the demolition has been under discussion since at least 2004, when the Womyn's Center produced a documentary protesting the decision. "The decision was an administrative one; the Womyn's Center was not involved in the decision making process, at least for as long as

see ***Womyn's Center,*** *page 2*

Acting President Urgo Toutes Strategic Plan

by Russ Doubleday '11
News Editor

After 16 months of hard work, Hamilton College has completed and released the final draft of its Strategic Plan.

The Plan indicates many targets and goals for the College in the next five to six years, but there are four cornerstones for the school's immediate future: providing a rigorous academic program, encouraging student services, becoming completely need-blind in financial aid, and accepting a broader and more diverse student body.

Acting President and Dean of Faculty Joseph Urgo played a major part in writing the the Plan as one of eight members on the Executive Committee. Urgo seemed pleased with the final outcome, along with its reception: "I think there is satisfaction with the process and also with the tasks we've got in front of us to undertake. These are just things that most folks agree that we need to do and to pay attention to."

The College is now in the process of setting up and organizing task forces to oversee the highlighted action items in the Plan. "The task force has already been put together to look at the Cultural Education Center," stated Urgo. "We're starting to put these groups together now." This will be ongoing throughout the semester, and some of the planning will spill over into next fall.

The College already faces

see ***Final Plan,*** *page 3*

Ice Rink Nears Completion

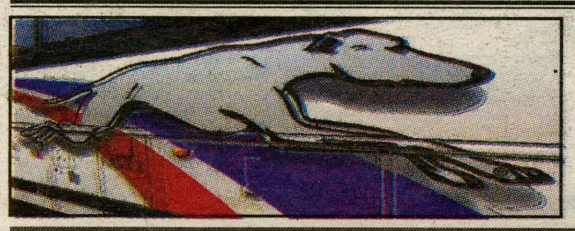
by Haley Riemer-Peltz '12
News Writer

The College's first outdoor skating rink, originally scheduled to be open following students' return from Winter Break, is now expected to be ready by FebFest at the latest. It will be on the North Court Quad, where tents are normally set up for campus outdoor dining events. Plans for the rink have been underway for almost a year.

"I originally brought the idea of the skating rink to Student Assembly last year when I was a representative," stated current Student Assembly (SA) President, Amy Goldstein '11. "I had seen a lot of other schools on cold campuses with a frozen pond or a rink on the quad where kids could skate, and thought it would be a great addition to Hamilton's campus." Instead of simply complaining about the unbearable cold, the rink could give

see ***Outdoor,*** *page 2*

PHOTO BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11



Grant funds allowed Steve Rowe '09 to travel the US via Greyhound bus to supplement his thesis.
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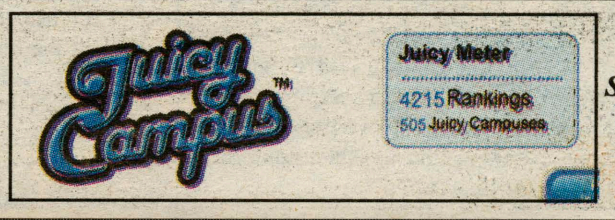

Face Off: Should Hamilton Campus be Juice Free?
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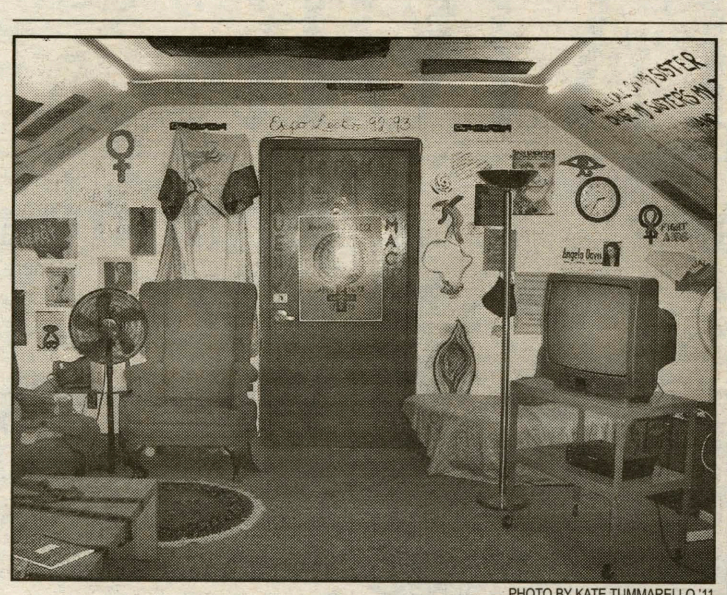

PHOTO BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

North, South Court Buildings Face the Wrecking Ball

*from **Womyn's Center**, page 1*

I have been at Hamilton." The Womyn's Center is currently slated to move to one of the Azel Backus apartments, while the Sociology Department will be moving to the Kirner-Johnson Building.

Associate Vice President for Facilities & Planning Steve Bellona stated in a Jan. 26 e-mail that the removal of the buildings "will provide several benefits to the college and campus community."

PHOTO BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

Physical Plant is still going to save some of the artwork installed in the Womyn's Center, like this fresco.

Bellona continued: "[The removal will] create a large open grassy area in the center of campus to support College programs and student activities… Reduce our annual electric and natural gas use by 30,000 kilowatt hours and 14,000 therms respectively… Reduce our annual carbon production by 82 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents… [and] improve our storm water retention." The maintenance costs of the buildings run at over $5,000 annually.

Although Bellona has stated that, "Physical Plant is working with the Womyn's Center to support their move to the Backus House," some members of the organization are not pleased with the ambiguity of the Center's future. Although rooms on the second floor of Azel Backus have been reserved for the Womyn's Center in the near future, after next year the Center's future is increasingly vague.

Originally, the Womyn's Center was going to move into one of the houses near Griffin Road where Campus Safety currently resides, and the Campus Safety offices were going to be relocated to the Bristol Center. However, with the suspension of the Emerson Hall renovation, which would have allowed the shakeup to take place, organizations like the Womyn's Center are in limbo.

The loss of administrative space is not the only concern facing the Womyn's Center. The current center is home to art installations created by Hamilton and Kirkland women. "We're working with physical plant to save some pieces of artwork," said Tannenbaum. "Some alumnae are also hoping to work with us and the administration to have some sort of physical recognition of the Center in the quad that will replace North and South Court."

According to Tannenbaum, the Womyn's Center as an organization will survive and continue its work, although the removal of the North and South Court buildings will be a blow.

"We will feel the loss of the current physical space. Many people who visit talk about the energy and security they feel in the Center, and being surrounded by artwork and quotations from the women who were here before us is a unique form of inspiration."

Endowment Down $225mil; Financial Aid Still a Priority

*from **Financial**, page 1*

valued at $350 million, up for sale. According to Commonfund and the National Association of College and University Business Officers, college endowments in North America have declined by an average of 22.5 percent from July 2008 to November 2008.

Hamilton depends on endowment money to cover a portion of its operating budget each year. In the past fiscal year, 21 percent of the College's operating revenue came from the endowment. With a diminished endowment and the decrease in other sources of revenue, (tuition, fundraising and interest income), the College is working hard to design a viable budget for the 2009-2010 school year. According to Vice President of Administration and Finance Karen Leach, it is likely that cuts will be made in all areas of the budget.

When asked how these cuts would affect students and faculty, Leach responded, "At this point we are attempting to make cuts that have the least impact on students and faculty. Departmental operating budgets will be trimmed. Out-of-class activities such as guest lectures may be cut. Overall the changes should not be noticeable to most students."

In spite of economic difficulties, Hamilton will still prioritize providing sufficient financial assistance to its students. The college will continue to provide 100 percent of demonstrated financial need to students. The new budget will likely allocate additional funds to financial aid in order to help students who have been affected by the national economic downturn. Recent layoffs at Syracuse University have also raised questions about job security at Hamilton. The College does not expect to lay off any employees and has pledged to work hard to avoid such a situation.

Additionally, Leach said that the College plans to set aside an emergency fund in case of future troubles. As for the College's construction projects, the Kirner-Johnson building will be finished this summer, but others are still up in the air.

"If we are fortunate enough to undertake any planned construction, such as the ELS project, in the short term, it will be done only if the funding is in hand and only if we can obtain favorable construction pricing," said Leach.

The proposed budget created by senior staff and the budget committee will be presented at February's faculty meeting. It will also be presented to the Student Assembly at a later date. In the meantime, the College welcomes ideas from campus community members on how to cut back spending and increase efficiency.

"Hamilton is a strong institution," said Leach, "We will be able to meet these challenges and maintain the quality Hamilton is known for. At the same time, we must make sustainable changes in our cost of operating by becoming more efficient and eliminating expense."

Student Assembly

Fiscal Improvements & Juice Bar Dilemma

by Ezra Rosenberg '10
News Editor
Student Assembly Representative

At the meeting on Jan. 26, 2009, the Student Assembly unanimously elected five new representatives for the Class of 2010 and three new representatives from the Class of 2011, and assigned new members to committee positions.

Fiscal Improvements:

SA discussed the ice skating rink, the completion of which is delayed until late this week or next week due to inadequate tools to drill foundation posts. There was also discussion of recommending that the Martin's Way bridge be turned into a covered bridge to prevent the slippery conditions .

The Buff & Buff Juice Bar:

The College and Bon Appétite are debating whether to close the Juice Bar due to underuse and lack of profitability. Possible suggestions or alternatives include educating campus about the bagged lunch equivalency option, altering hours of operation to cover busier hours, or replacing the Juice Bar with a vending machine.

End of Semester Course Evaluations:

The 93 percent participation rate could be improved by extending the evaluation period though exam week. Professors that are due for acknowledgments/tenure should be noted because students should be more thorough for these important decisions.

Funding:

SA allocated funding to the following organizations:
Feb Fest $34,500.00 for this February's events.
Untitled@Large $483.00 for a theatre project.
Special K $2000.00 for recording an album.
Mock Trial $1940.00 for a trip.
Scottish Country Dancing $347.00 for dancing supplies.
Curling $1008.00 for trip to an off campus competition.
TOTAL: $40,298.00 this week.

Outdoor Rink Nearly Open

*from **Ice**, page 1*

reason to celebrate the winter.

The rink could feasibly be used for activities during FebFest, broomball tournaments (a milder version of hockey), free skating, and other general winter frivolities.

SA worked for the rink with help from the Assistant Dean of Students for Campus Life and Director of Student Activities Lisa Magnarelli '96 and members of Physical Plant, including Manager of Grounds Don Croft, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Planning Steve Bellona, and Assistant Director of Grounds Terry Hawkridge.

Croft helped figure out the logistics of the rink. Its dimensions are going to be 60 by 70 feet. "We used a kit called 'NiceRink,' to help us set up the rink outside," commented Goldstein. "NiceRink" is the world's leading manufacturer of outdoor ice rink liners, resurfacers and resurfacing accessories for portable ice-skating. SA funded the rink, and they originally budgeted more than they wound up using. "We see the 'NiceRink' as a kind of investment because we can reuse it to build a rink every winter," Goldstein said.

Due to the extreme cold weather over break and the inherent danger of having people work outside in such conditions, it was difficult for progress to be made on the rink. Work was further delayed when the ground completely froze during the wait. Physical Plant had to buy a different, more powerful drill to proceed. The rink was scheduled to be ready sometime this week, but Physical Plant has to wait for it to stop snowing before the rink floods in order to keep the ice as smooth as possible. The rink will certainly be ready soon into February. This is a very convenient time, as it is also the period when high school students go on college visits, and everyone enjoys a college tour that includes joyous college kids having good, clean fun on their outdoor skating rink.

Concerning the issue of good, clean fun, SA plans to post "Skate at your own risk" signs around the rink. They have considered the likelihood of intoxicated skaters, and they have decided largely to trust students' judgment.

Weather depending, the rink should be ready by December 1 in future years, reported Croft. The ground will be softer earlier in the season, which will make it easier to set up the rink sooner. Also, the Womyn's Center is scheduled to be knocked down this summer, which will leave more room on the North Court Quad for the rink to be moved around.

HAVOC Sponsors 11th Annual MLK Service Day

by Kate Moore '12
News Writer

Bone-chilling temperatures could not deter eager volunteers from participating in this year's 11th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day. HAVOC sponsors this annual event, which sends students to a wide range of sites in the Oneida County area.

On January 24, over 100 students set out in school buses for their designated sites. 10 organizations received aid, but the HAVOC board still had to turn away volunteers after reaching capacity.

"Turnout was great, we had more people sign up than we had room for on the trips, and though we never want to turn away volunteers, it is good to see such enthusiasm," said Brian Mizoguchi '11, director of HAVOC.

Volunteers spent their Saturday afternoons at one of the following local non-profits: Johnson Park Center; Rome Humane Society; Emmaus House; Kirkland Library; Clare Bridge Clinton; Root Farm For the Good, Inc.; Hope House; Underground Café; and the Neighborhood Center.

"The Gospel Choir thought that this would be a good opportunity for not only giving back to our local community, but also as a way of connecting and bonding as a group," said Amanda Barnes '12.

It was unfortunate that there were not enough sites to accommodate everyone interested, but many groups were not able utilize the help available to them.

"If there was one difficulty in planning this event, it was that many non-profits in Utica are suffering as a result of the economic downturn, and as a result have scaled back their operations and hours, making it difficult to find places for all of our volunteers to go. It's a shame that at the time these organizations need our help the most we are unable to help them," said Mizoguchi.

Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day is one of two annual, community-wide events sponsored by HAVOC. Hamilton Serves occurs during the first weekend in fall semester. In addition, HAVOC sponsors regular trips to numerous sites.

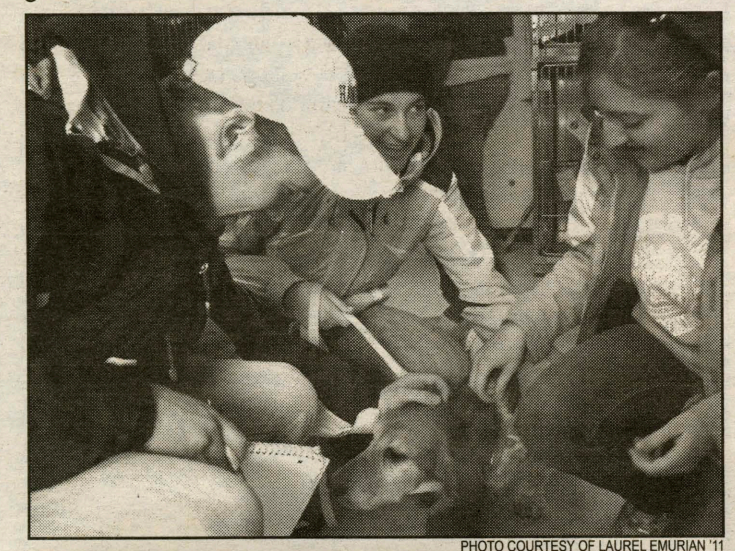

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREL EMURIAN '11

Doug Paetzell '09, Emma Domby '11 and Abby Crimmins '09 volunteered at the Rome Humane Society.

Final Plan Penned

*from **Acting President**, page 1*

some difficult decisions due to the worsening economy. They will prioritize less expensive areas, like the academics program.

"We're all watching the economy," said Urgo. "The next big decision we have to make regards ELS and whether to start those renovations this summer or to put them off for a year." The economy appears to be the sole factor which this decision will hinge on.

Hamilton is also striving to become need-blind in financial aid for admissions. "We will be need-blind when we can afford to be, and right now, we don't have enough operating funds for that," explained Urgo. "One possibility is that financial aid will become a major part of the next capital campaign." However, Urgo did tell *The Spectator* that the school is reasonably close to achieving its goal for financial aid, and thus becoming completely need-blind.

The last stated major goal is to become "an inclusive community whose demographics reflect those of the coming generation of faculty and college-bound students," as the Plan states. "We went back and forth in the Plan with people who wanted us to put numbers, percentages, goals in there," Urgo said, "and we didn't want to do that because it's not like you reach a percentage and we're done. It's a question of changing the culture [at Hamilton] and having the culture here evolve."

The Plan mentions little on the College's impact on the environment in the coming years, and in earlier drafts, there was no mention of measures the school would be taking to help the environment. Urgo said the Plan omitted these issues because the College is already doing a significant amount: "These are major initiatives that are already underway…and it signals an ongoing commitment on our part. [The initiatives in the Plan are] for things that we haven't been doing or want to start doing."

The Plan also lays out the steps for Hamilton's reaccreditation process. Every ten years, the College must pass a stringent examination to become reaccredited as an academic institution. The Assistant Dean of Faculty for Institutional Research Gordon Hewitt and Associate Dean of Faculty Pat Reynolds are co-chairing the reaccreditation process. It is their job to assess the academic curriculum and to make sure it is acceptable for reaccreditation standards.

"The Plan is more of a document of strategic intent instead of a strategic Plan," Urgo articulated, "because it doesn't really plan so much as give us all these things we want to work on in these task forces." From now until 2014, this document of "strategic intent" will guide Hamilton's future actions.

The Career Center

Money is tight, but don't let that keep you from seeking out an unpaid or minimally paid internship.

Through the generosity of a number of Hamilton alumni and parents, funding is available to cover cost-of-living expenses to support students who obtain unpaid or minimally paid summer internships.

The Joseph F. Anderson Fund
available only to first years, sophomores and juniors
open to all majors and career fields
award amount range: $2500- $6000

The Richard & Patsy Couper Grant
available to all class years
preference given to students whose career interests and internship focuses on libraries/library science, museums and non-profit organizations
award amount range: $2000-$4000

The George & Martha Darcy Internship Fund
available to those who have completed their junior year of college internship will support internships in the following fields: communications, writing, advertising/ public relations, publishing, print journalism, telecommunications
applicants must have at least a B average
award amount range: will not exceed $3500
applicants must clearly demonstrate financial need

The Jeffrey Fund Science Internship
available to first years, sophomores and juniors
funding is to support internships in the sciences
award amount range: $2500-$6000

The Monica Odening Student Internship & Research Fund In Mathematics
available only to first years, sophomores and juniors
funding is provided to support off-campus study in mathematics
award amount: up to $2800

The Summer Internship Support Fund
This fund will provide cost of living assistance to students who might have insufficient resources to fully support undertaking a summer internship, including a paid or unpaid opportunity
available to first years, sophomores and juniors
applicants must demonstrate financial need
award amount range: $3000-$4000

Class of 2006 Fund
available to first years, sophomores and juniors
award amount is estimated to be under $1,000

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A recipient must be in good academic standing; meet specific requirements as designated by each fund; and, in some instances, demonstrate financial need.

For details and application information, please click on "Get Career Related Experience", then "Summer Internship Funding" on our website.

OPINION

THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

Hamilton to Protect Core Despite Endowment Woes

For much of the last year, questions of "Just how much have we lost?" and "Will we be able to survive" have been on the minds of Americans in boardrooms, kitchens, and even classrooms. While Hamilton has been hit hard by the current economic crisis, our situation is certainly not unique and not nearly as precarious as it could be. Our endowment, which we draw 21 percent of our operating budget from, has dropped $225 million between October 2007 and November 2008. As the school looks to the future, prudent steps must be taken to ensure the preservation of Hamilton, as we know it.

In her recent letter to the faculty, Vice President of Administration and Finance Karen Leach pledged, "As we develop next year's budget we are focused on making decisions that protect the core of a Hamilton education." While Martin's Way, Bundy parties, waffle ceilings and the snow are certainly core aspects of a Hamilton education, the true feature that sets our college apart from all the rest is its people. In her letter, Leach has claimed that, like the snow, the people that make up the Hamilton community are not going anywhere.

Throughout the semester, discussions of the current economic climate have turned to worries of financial aid. Many students have wondered if there will be enough money to go around. Hamilton has emphasized a commitment to providing additional financial aid, not only to those students entering the College, but current students facing unexpected financial hardships. In these uncertain times, students should not have to worry about whether or not they will be able to remain on the Hill for all four years due to unforeseeable circumstances – we applaud the College for their commitment to students in need of financial aid. Another goal stated in the letter to the faculty is that the increase in the comprehensive fee – tuition, room, board and student activities fee – will be relatively small. While often lumped in with financial aid information, this commitment is particularly important for the roughly 40 percent of students on campus who are responsible for paying their entire tuition. Although there are some students on campus for whom tuition does not mount a great hardship, they are the minority – Hamilton's commitment to the smallest possible increase in comprehensive fee will go a long way for those students scraping by without financial aid.

The true core of the Hamilton education lies in the faculty and staff that work tirelessly to maintain the community we students enjoy. In a climate where layoffs seem to be the rule, rather than the exception, Leach explained that would not be so at Hamilton. "One of our primary goals, barring additional significant economic deterioration, is to protect jobs at Hamilton during this difficult time." While students come and go in just four years, many of the faculty and staff have been here for decades – maintaining the high standards and community values that have become synonymous with a Hamilton education. The commitment to preserving jobs at Hamilton will ensure that the College will be able to maintain the excellence of which it is expected.

At this stage, this ardent commitment to the core of Hamilton – the people of the College – remains the goal. We will wait with bated breath until the official budget is released on Tuesday at the Open Faculty Meeting to see just how well Hamilton has succeeded in protecting this core.

Winter Wonderland: Strategic Snow Plan Questioned

Hamilton has many distinct and identifying characteristics: small classes, a student body that could be found in a J. Crew catalogue, and long, harsh winters. Despite the fact that our winter weather is common and predictable, the condition of the campus often indicates otherwise.

There is no doubt that the task of keeping the campus clean and safe during the winter is a difficult one, and that the individuals that dedicate their time towards this goal deserve our gratitude. However, there are some problems with the maintenance of campus that need to be addressed.

One of those problems is the safety hazards that result from moving of snow. The first is that the removal of snow around campus often creates safety hazards. As if the crosswalk situation on campus isn't dangerous enough, the massive piles of snow that form around the crosswalks make it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians about to cross.

Secondly, there are paths on campus that are almost always covered in ice. It may seem as though there are constantly Physical Plant employees clearing and salting, but there are certain paths on campus that are covered with ice from the first day the temperature reaches below freezing, due to either precipitation or runoff, such as the path leading from Keehn to the Root Lot and the path leading to the steps outside of Dunham.

The maintenance of the parking lots is no better. In the process of moving snow, staff often leave piles in the corners and limit the amount of parking spaces available. Using a different technique to remove snow or assigning fewer people to each lot in anticipation of winter weather would solve this problem.

Dealing with the weather at Hamilton is an unenviable task, to say the least. The staff at the Physical Plant deserve our gratitude for what they already do. Taking these concrete steps, however, would make the campus safer, even on the worst winter days.

THE SPECTATOR

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Letdown in the Laundry Room

by Will Weisblatt '11
Opinion Writer

I woke up on Sunday morning to the unpleasant discovery that I needed to do my laundry. It wasn't a desperate need, but rather the beginning of an admittedly dubious initiative to try and stay ahead of the curve on my dirty clothing. It isn't the act of doing laundry that I despise; that doesn't trouble me much at all.

The problem is the laundry room. It is an abomination and makes the innocuous act of cleaning clothes infinitely more annoying, akin to getting an old car inspected or cleaning up a beirut table.

The facts are in. South Dormitory houses a maximum of 126 students. It has three washing machines and three dryers. These six machines are squeezed into a room that cannot exceed 20 feet in width or depth. When two people occupy the room, there is not enough room for both to move their laundry around without significant difficulty. Three is a crowd. Four is a circus. When you factor in mountains of clothing of all shapes, sizes, colors, and styles also occupying this space, all of a sudden four people all trying to individually accomplish the same task could be something featured in an episode of a bad '90s sitcom.

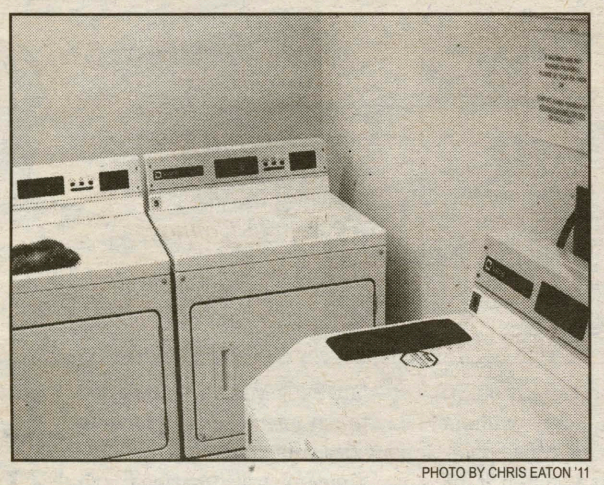


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

The laundry room in South dormitory can barely fit three washers and three dryers.

This problem is not exclusive to South; most, if not every, dorm on campus suffers from laundry gridlock. Thus, when I woke up Sunday morning, my unpleasant discovery wasn't so much that I had a terrible headache, but that in a few minutes, I would develop one.

Status quo just doesn't cut it here, because I refuse to get up at 3 o'clock in the morning on Wednesday to have the laundry room to myself. Some action must be taken on the matter.

Thus, I must point out an adjacent, and much larger room: the Common Room. What a wonderful space. Full of uncomfortable chairs, a pool table with no balls or cue sticks, and a single, quietly humming soda machine. What this space famously lacks is people.

Why not take everything from the laundry room and move it into the Common Room? It's bigger, it's brighter and, more importantly, it can house quite a few more machines. Moving laundry operations here will give purpose to an otherwise meaningless space. It has two entrances, rather than one, so that there isn't a jam of people haphazardly shoving in and out of one door.

Frankly, I wouldn't mind cutting through the laundry room to get to the Soda machine or the kitchen and I don't anticipate many other people would think twice about it either.

This solution is not universal to all dorms, merely South's. However, it does illustrate that there are creative fixes to the laundry room hurdle. It must be hurdled, because at this school laundry should not be a primary problem to be dealt with. That's what classes are for. When I wake up on Sunday morning, I'd rather sweat through books and papers than detergent and hampers.

Dealing with the Add/Drop Dilemma

by Lauren Magaziner '12
Opinion Writer

My count for last week: one stressed out freshman, two meetings with professors to ask for advising help, three letters begging to be let into a closed class, five courses attended in one day, eight different courses attended total, 16 phone calls begging my mother for her opinion, and one million tears.

I did not know how stressful add/drop week could possibly be. Last semester, I was locked out of many of the classes I wanted to take because I needed the 100 levels, but this semester I had options.

I signed up for classes with ease and a good registration time—I signed up for one class that I knew I was going to absolutely love, one class that I was very interested in but did not know anything about, one class that I had to take but I knew would be alright, and one class that I had to take but about which I was nervous and unsure.

When I actually attended my classes two months later, I was dismayed to find that I would have 21 papers to write—I struggled to turn in only nine papers last semester!

I was shocked and felt deceived. The course descriptions did not seem that intensive, yet here I was with 21 papers, two presentations, some daily write-ups and exercises, and lots and lots of reading. I know, I know... I did apply to a highly competitive liberal arts college. To be honest, it is not the amount of work that is bothering me, as much as the fact that I did not get what I thought I had signed up for.

The viewing of

*see **Post Syllabi**, page 6*

Face Off: Should Hamilton ban Juicy Campus?

Yes

by Jessie Brown '12
Opinion Writer

This time last year, I looked forward to college, in hopes of leaving behind the "he said, she said" world of high school.

I had no idea, until a few months ago, that a new form of gossip existed to preserve that kind of immaturity. When someone laughingly mentioned Juicy Campus, I gave in to my curiosity and gave the site a visit.

I am a bit of a cynic, so I was not surprised that something like Juicy Campus exists, but I was disgusted by some of the things circulating on this gossip website.

For those who have missed the buzz, Juicy Campus is reminiscent of the "Burn Book" in *Mean Girls*, but for a college setting. It boasts, "This is the place to spill the juice about all the crazy stuff going on at your campus. It's totally anonymous - no registration, login, or email verification required."

Basically, anyone can start rumors and bash victims of their choosing without consequence. Pathetic, much? I think so.

James Kruger, '12, recalls his high school having a similar website that disturbed the student body. "It turned out to be a disaster." Shame on Hamilton for stooping to that level of immaturity. Four years older, we really should be better than that.

The golden rule applies here. If you do not want someone to talk trash about you, do not talk trash about someone else. It sounds preachy, but anonymously posting things about someone you dislike without regard to truth is cowardly.

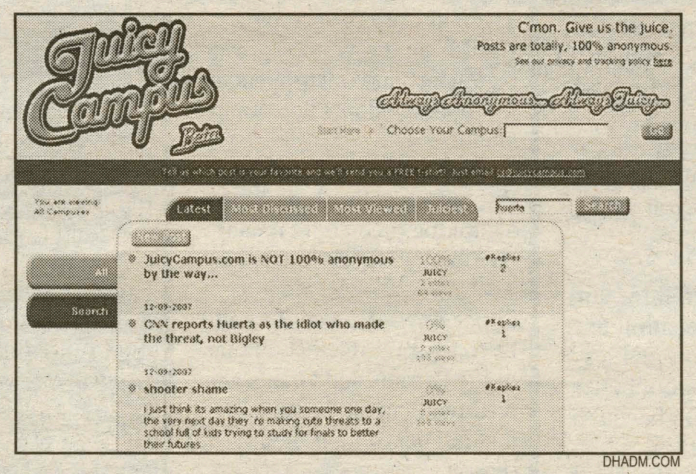
Is it honestly so difficult to attempt to work out problems? Not every dispute can be resolved, but that does not mean an attempt to do so is useless. Until we can stop being so juvenile, Hamilton should ban Juicy Campus.

"It should be banned," says Emily Moulton, '12, "because it doesn't really have any benefits, but because of freedom of speech, it probably can't be."

Hamilton students are not the only perpetrators. Students at many colleges across the country subject their peers to the same kind of disrespect on Juicy Campus.

While the College should fully respect our right to speak our minds, when what you say can hurt someone else in a medium like this one, one in which the victims cannot defend themselves against the attacks, they must step in to censor it.

Yes, this is America. We must uphold the freedom of speech. However, if we cannot start acting like adults, then we should not expect the College to treat us accordingly, and thus understand their need to ban Juicy Campus.



DHADM.COM

As seen above, Juicy Campus encourages users to anonymously post gossip about their fellow classmates.

No

by Sam Gomez '10
Opinion Writer

Hamilton College should not consider banning access to the popular website Juicy Campus through their network. According to their terms and conditions, "Juicy Campus offers user-provided information regarding events, courses, people and groups at educational institutions."

Potential misuse of the resources available at Juicy Campus is also clearly spelled out on the website. It says, "You represent, warrant, and guarantee that by posting your content to the site, you are not violating any obligation owed by you to any third party, including without limitation obligations of confidentiality, privacy, or attribution."

The website terms also forbid, "post[ing] content that is obscene or that violates laws relating to sexually explicit material, that infringes the rights of any third party (including intellectual property and privacy or publicity rights), that is defamatory, or that constitutes hate speech under applicable law."

The contract to which one is bound when logging on to Juicy Campus absolves the website of liability for any civil torts that may come about as a result of posting sensitive or confidential information about individuals. The website also takes no responsibility for screening or moderating any of the content that can be found in their forums. The result of this "hands-off" approach on the site is that no one but the poster is responsible for the information that is posted on the site.

The main problem is that all postings on the site are completely anonymous. This makes punishment for postings that may contain private information, obscene references, or defamation nearly impossible. After two minutes on the forum, I was immediately able to find a posting that violated the contract agreed to by users on the site. The posting "Washed-Up Senior Whores" mentions two individuals on campus by name, and clearly violates the website's policy on obscenity. So the question remains: why shouldn't Hamilton ban this site on their network?

The answer, to me, is simple: free speech. Hamilton students should be able to post whatever they want on any forum they choose, as delineated in the U.S. Constitution. While things like defamation, dissemination of confidential information and obscenity are not protected by free speech laws in this country, most of the material that can be found on Juicy Campus is.

Since there is an assumption that posters agree to a binding contract in order to use the site, any misuse of free speech is a violation of the contract, and would clearly result in punishment in civil court if an injured party took action.

That being said, I believe it would run counter to the spirit of educational institutions as well as the U.S. Constitution to let the abuse of a few restrict the rights of the many.

Technically Speaking

Hamilton's VP of IT Weighs in on Mass E-Mail

by David Smallen
Vice President
Information Technology
Opinion Contributor

Recent activities involving the use of electronic mail on campus have underscored the importance of understanding the difference between, and appropriate uses of, different forms of communication.

In this column, I want to first correct some statements made in the opinion piece in the September 23, 2009 edition of the Spectator (Face Off: Should Mass E-mails Include Opinions?) and then suggest that the main benefit of electronic communication is convenience and why it is an inappropriate format for discussion of controversial issues.

Finally, I offer some suggestions for how to avoid making the mistake of substituting convenience for conversation. That the VP who oversees technology at Hamilton should suggest *less* use of electronic communication might seem contradictory, but I ask you to read on.

First, the e-mail mass mailing lists (allcampus, allstudents, etc.) serve one main purpose: the convenient announcement of Hamilton events, meetings and changes/updates to policies. In order to keep this resource useful, the guidelines restrict the way these lists can be used and who can use them. A complete explanation of the guidelines can be found on the ITS website in the section on "ListServ Mass Mailing Lists."

The key points are: limits on the purpose of the e-mail, the number of e-mails regarding a single event and the lists to which e-mails may be sent.

In the particular case of the two mass e-mails that were sent out on Jan. 10, they violated the guidelines not because (as suggested in the Spectator opinion piece) the guidelines prohibit email "that may be perceived as harassment, political campaigning or commercial solicitation" (these are prohibitions for any type of college email), but because they were not announcements of College events, meetings, etc, as described in the guidelines for listserv mass mailing lists.

Electronic communication, while it may be convenient, is not an appropriate substitute for face-to-face communication when: expressing opinions, or disagreement with others, discussing issues, breaking up with your girlfriend, boyfriend, significant other or criticizing other people's actions.

In this sense, "Electronic Communication" includes all forms (e.g., e-mail, texting, bulletin boards, and social networks like Facebook). Electronic resources are appropriate for transmitting facts, setting up appointments, providing directions, sending documents for review to others and thanking others for services provided.

Most significant communication between two people requires not only the transfer of information, but also the ability to observe non-verbal cues such as tone of voice or facial expressions and to ask for clarification in real time. Electronic communication is, for the most part, asynchronous, meaning that the parties engaging in the "communication" don't have to be present at the same time.

You send an e-mail, I see it several hours later. In the meantime, someone else has responded and maybe a clarification has taken place that I don't see. This often leads to all sorts of misunderstandings as people read e-mails out of sequence, react quickly without thinking and don't have the opportunity to ask for clarification at the appropriate time. When this takes a negative turn in e-mail we call it a "flame war."

It is also now common, and inappropriate, for people to use electronic communication to avoid having a difficult face-to-face, or at least phone, conversation. How many times have you been angry at someone and sent them an e-mail rather than calling them? What kind of relationship would you have with a person if you would be willing to end it by sending an electronic communication? Must be that you didn't really care.

Using electronic communication as a shield to protect you from having a difficult talk is at best bad manners and at worst a cowardly act. Almost all of us have made this mistake at one time or another and we usually live to regret it.

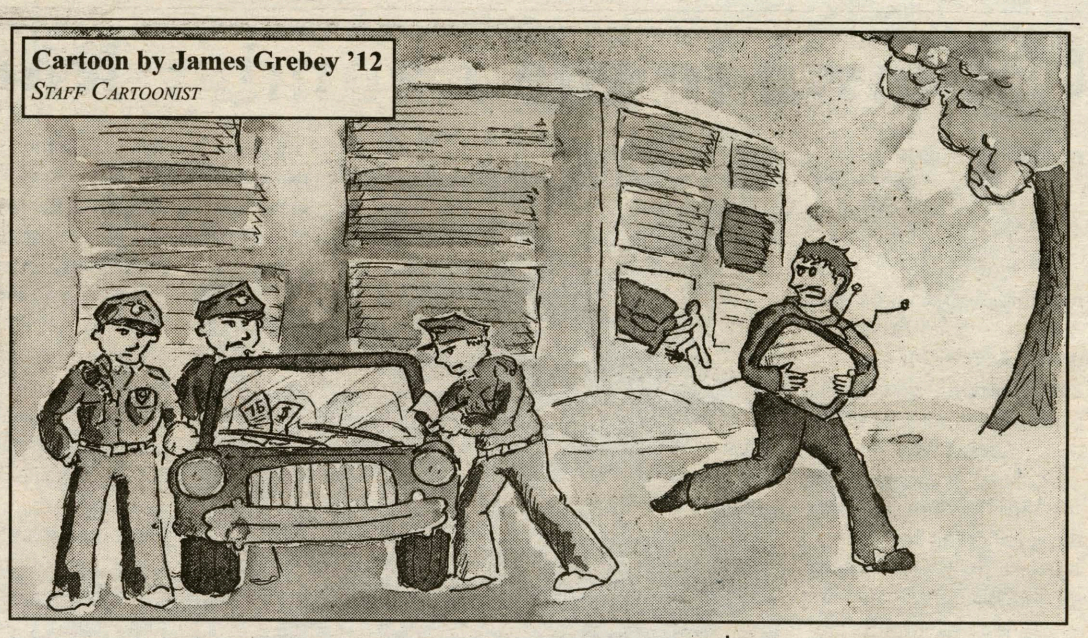
So what do I recommend? Use electronic communication for conveniently communicating the factual part of our lives: sending news, thanking people for a job well done, asking for comments on something you've written and day-to-day interaction for planning activities with others.

Remember also that there is an unwritten expectation that if you are sent an e-mail you will respond in roughly a day or less. If you communicate by text message that time expectation is shortened.

Thus, when you have bad news, have an opinion to express or want to break up with or criticize another person, send a one line e-mail (or text) with the subject: "Let's talk" and the message: "When can we get together to talk?"

At worst, we here at Hamilton should be able to start a conversation by phone and pull a group of interested people together to discuss things in person in a relatively short period of time. These are advantages that are not available at most institutions of higher education!

If we take the time to think about these issues then we will conclude that these ideas are just common sense. If we all follow these suggestions, we will have fewer misunderstandings, help to build a better community, and be better people! Some pretty noble goals.



Cartoon by James Grebey '12
Staff Cartoonist

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

As a longtime member, and former President of the German Club I would like to apologize to the Hamilton Community for the messages sent from the Club email address on January 10th. Your inboxes were not the proper place for a debate about the current conflict in Gaza. In general, I support the sender's instinct to challenge propagandistic, political positions, but I would like to clarify that the Club's other members do not all support the stance he espoused. This student acted alone and stated himself that the message was "not german club related." More than any other Club member, I am responsible for leaving this young student leader so ill-informed about the limitations on his privileges. For this failure, I apologize to him, and for its consequences, I apologize to you all.

- Wesley Adams Davis

Thumbs up

Darksiders building snow forts more comfortable and aesthetically pleasing than their dorms.

Becoming an AA leader: All the freshman girls you want until the lightsiders get back.

Thank you, Physical Plant, for awaiting our return to campus before beginning construction on the Ice Rink. Now we can fully appreciate the ingenuity it takes to clear an oval and then put water in it.

24 Hour Film Festival: I also enjoy hosting contests and giving myself first place.

Thumbs down

Toggenburg: Thanks, but there's a pretty big snow bank by the parking lot, so I'm set.

Freshmen wearing shirts from colleges they didn't get into. They didn't want you, and neither do we.

According to the Senior Gift Committee, the location of the Senior Gift pint glasses is a mystery. Oooooo, better solve the case soon because either way I'm getting $5 worth of pint glasses from the Pub.

Suggestive Womyn's Center Symbol: ({}) ... I'd like to throw an 8, some Is, and a D in your curly brackets, if you know what I mean ;)

Who Cares?

The Hill Card off-campus. Until I can throw it at bartenders and/or strippers, I'm just opening doors and doing laundry.

Robotic recycling bins. Does a blinking green light mean Autobot or Decepticon?

Super Bowl Weekend! I will be rooting for the fact that fans of the Patriots and Giants are wallowing in all the bullsh*t that fell out of their mouths this season.

All-campus parties starting up again this weekend: Thank God, I was getting sick of drinking beer quickly, listening to my favorite music and enjoying myself.

Joan Hinde-Stewart returns to France: Thanks a lot Capoeira, our president is so disgusted by you she left the country.

Your thesis.

by Steve Allinger '09, Jason Brown '09 & Matt Fellows '09

Post Syllabi on Web Prior to Registration

*from **Add/Drop**, page 5*

course syllabi prior to registration would be advantageous to the add/drop process. We are supposed to sign up for classes based only on a course description that is three sentences long (and sometimes non-existent).

I firmly believe that there should be a place on my.hamilon.edu where you can look at the syllabi of classes before you sign up for them. I want to know what I am getting myself into before I drown myself in 21 papers. Looking at the class syllabus before add/drop week would drastically reduce the class-switching rate because people would be able to understand the course prior to observing the class.

Also, the add/drop week in itself is unnecessarily stressful. I had my first class on Monday and then decided that I did not like the class. I had less than a week to observe other classes, and by that time many of the classes I wanted were full (and waitlisted with 26 students). With the Add period as short as it is, I had a very difficult time choosing a class.

I understand how confusing it is for professors when students constantly add and drop their class. However, I think that extending the add week by five to seven days would not adversely affect the structure of the class and would allow students to make a thorough and thoughtful course choice. It would then be the student's responsibility to catch up on the missing course work.

I know that I am not alone on this—some of my good friends have been going through the same exact problem. With a longer add week and the posting of syllabi online before registration, Hamilton College can reduce the number of tears and headaches for all of its stressed out students.

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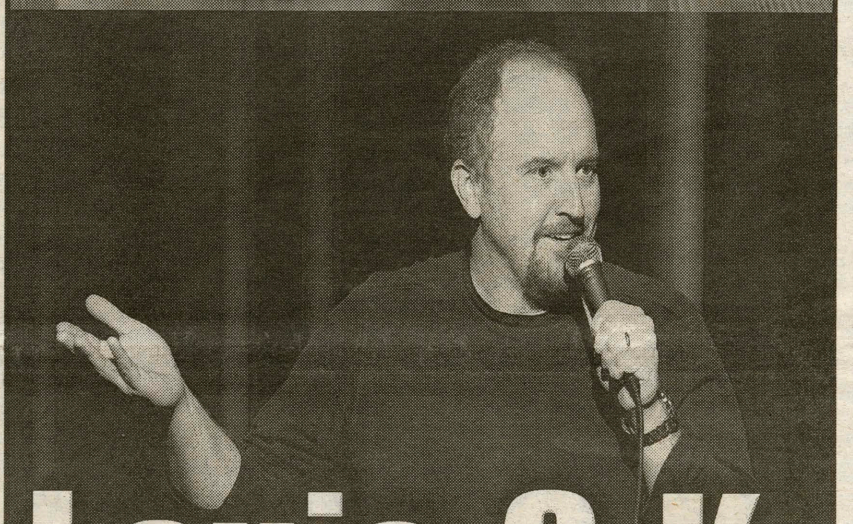

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A Closer LOOk: *HCTV Cribs*

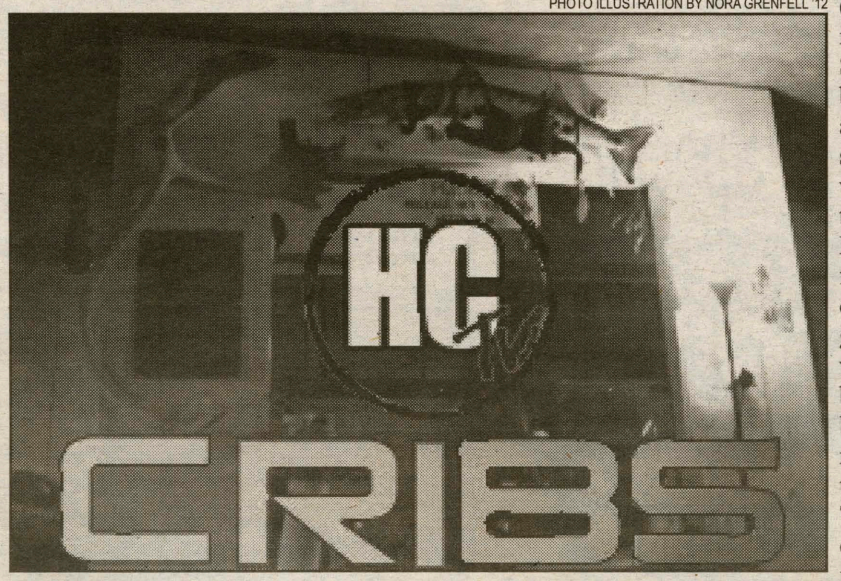
By Hadley Keller
FEATURES WRITER

When students received an e-mail advertising the HCTV Version of MTV's Cribs, the question on many minds was what is HCTV? It's no surprise that most students are unfamiliar with Hamilton's TV channel as it hasn't been active for many years. But with the leadership of two dedicated students, and the aid of Director of Student Activities Lisa Magnarelli, HCTV is making a comeback. This year, Sarah Immelt '10 and Jessica Cox '10, both members of the Campus Activities Board (CAB), decided to take on the task of resurrecting the TV channel (which, by the way, is completely separate from the movie channel). As Immelt explained, "We were both really into things like *The Lonely Island*, and SNL digital shorts, and wanted to bring that kind of thing to Hamilton." Both also mentioned being highly impressed with the work displayed in Hamilton's 24-hour film festival, which revealed a lot of talent for video and filmmaking on campus – talent that Cox and Immelt believe should be shared.

Since it is just Cox and Immelt doing the bulk of the work, the undertaking is a big one. The girls were first required to appeal to the Student Media Board for permission to carry out the project. Once that was cleared, Cox and Immelt dove into the project. The biggest obstacle so far seems to be logistics. The two have been working on getting permission to use the library's camera equipment for the TV channel, and recruiting anyone interested in being a part of this exciting project. Participants could help out with filming, hosting, or really anything HCTV related, and the pair is definitely open to any input. As of now there is a lot of work to be done, but what Cox and Immelt might lack in resources they certainly make up for in ideas.

Of course the big kickoff event will be the Cribs episode.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NORA GRENFELL '12



The two had initially planned to film the featured rooms themselves, and friend Jane Barnes '09 volunteered to host, but applicants who want to film their rooms themselves, with their own perspectives on their respective "cribs," are encouraged to do so. In addition to this exciting idea, Cox and Immelt mentioned the possibility of a "Hamilton COPS" show, which would be a kind of behind the scenes look at Campus Safety. Other ideas include a "Continental Breakfast" cooking show, and "A Day in the Life," which would follow various different (and hopefully interesting!) Hamilton students. Some possibilities could be a day in the life of an athlete, and international student, or anyone else whose life you'd like to hear about. Cox and Immelt also mentioned featuring music videos on the TV channel – a great chance to spread word of your talented, but as-yet-undiscovered, band. Overall, HCTV's new leaders seem ready to get down to business. They are excited about creating a fun project for the Hamilton community, and both emphasize that the budding TV channel is open to ideas and contributions of any kind. Just email simmelt or jcox, or place any type of submissions in their campus mailboxes: 826 and 379, respectively. Brace yourselves for HCTV's comeback, because it looks like it's going to be a good one.

Next Week:
The search is over. The sex begins.
Spectator Between the Sheets.

$1300 Grant funds Greyhound Adventure

By Katrina Rabeler '12
FEATURES WRITER

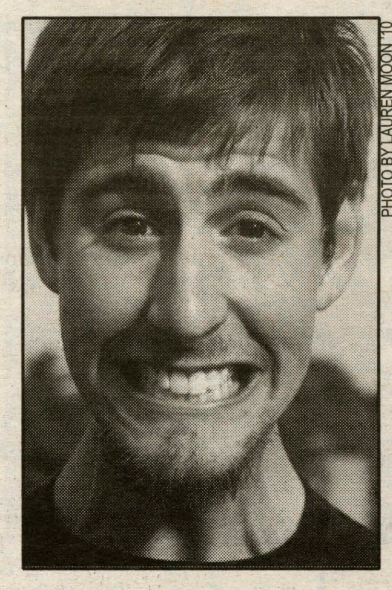


PHOTO BY LAUREN MOON '10

"I had the itching to move... I like having adventures,"
Steve Rowe '09 explained.

And so he did. For three weeks over winter break, Rowe traveled through exactly 25 states on Greyhound buses, seeing Portland, Maine to San Francisco CA to El Palo Texas, to Chicago, Illinois.

"One of the best/unique things about Hamilton is all of these grants and fellowships. For this project, I wrote a proposal for what I wanted to do and applied for the Steven Daniel Smallen Memorial Fund for Student Creativity grant and the Class of '79 Student Travel Award," Rowe explains about obtaining his grant. For more information about Hamilton grants and fellowships, students should go to www.hamilton.edu/applications/catalogue/scholarships5.html or contact Karen Brown, the office assistant to the Dean of Faculty.

Rowe's idea originated from his desire to research for his thesis on "capitalism and justice" by interviewing people on how they felt about the social economic structure of America.

Rowe sought to create a narrative in order "to tell stories of the people I met and to tell my story."

Steve was awarded $1,322 from the Creativity grant to use in his bus trip across America. He came up with the idea when he was on a 48-hour bus ride to visit his then girlfriend. "I met some wild characters, but also I was exposed to a different culture and social class. I grew up in the upper middle class and this was the first time I really had a sustained interaction with the bottom section of the American social class."

Rowe drove through 25 states worth of epic adventures. For three weeks Steve showered under bathroom sinks, never slept more than three hours at a time, and spent his days chatting with fellow bus-riders, writing haikus on postcards to his friends, and recording his journey so that he could turn it into a narrative. He survived from Maine to Salt Lake City on a brick of cheese and loaf of bread and then did it again from Los Angeles to Nashville. He witnessed cops busting homeless people for trying to sleep in the bus station and other sketchy nighttime encounters, including a man cursing him out for "touching him" even though they both slept on opposite metal benches. He experienced the bars of Nashville where there was "really good rocking country music," and what it feels like to be the only white English speaker in El Paso, Texas. He was even paid off ($2 and a smile) to keep quiet about a drug deal he unwittingly witnessed in a bathroom.

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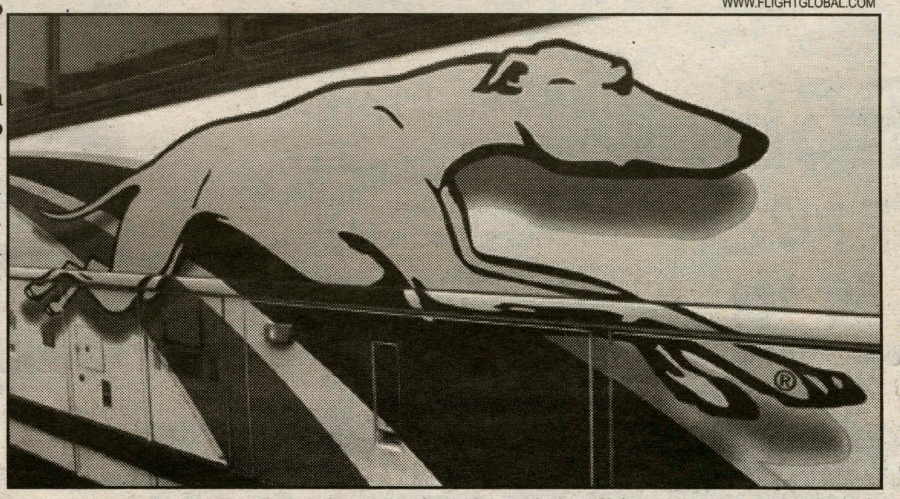

The people, however, were the real adventure. "I just would strike up conversations and see where they went. I met tons of military people home on leave, people on their last buck looking for work or going home after being let off, and a surprising number of people our age that ran away or got kicked out of their homes. There were so many generous people and so many special moments that just fill you up with life and make you happy. One lady started praying for me. One man got on the bus with these beautiful shoes he had painted with intricate designs and pictures. Everyone was so impressed by them that he passed them around and the bus became a little community," Steve explained. "And not just money, but simple gifts like loaning a cell phone or rearranging seats so a family could sit together. It's these moments that make you think: aw... people are so wonderful."

Rowe also learned a few lessons. "I learned about America: who Americans are – specifically I learned more about the lives of Americans that ride the bus, those people who are typically near the bottoms of the socioeconomic structure. My challenge for my narrative is not to just see it as a wild adventure but to really convey the emotional sense. I learned what that emotion feels like: seeing people and sometimes myself sleeping on the street, living hand to mouth, not having a support network. It's that fear of uncertainty – an emotion I'd never felt before. I got a taste of it I think."

A Few Things You May Not Know About HOC

By Lily Gillespie '12
FEATURES WRITER

As I write this article, I feel I must admit that I knew very little about the Hamilton Outing Club prior to now. One of my first encounters with their headquarters, the Glen House, was when I was supposed to attend an event there but never made it because I was new, it was really dark, it was raining, and I felt somewhat like I was descending into a scene from "The Strangers." However, in reality the Glen House is a warm and lovely space and the perfect home for one of Hamilton's most welcoming, and certainly largest, student groups. HOC sees a membership of close to 500 Hamilton students every year, including those freshmen who participate in Adirondack Adventure trips and are automatically granted membership to HOC for their entire freshmen year. Upperclassmen or freshmen who didn't participate in AA are charged a minimal fee of $10 for a membership that lasts for the duration of the school year.

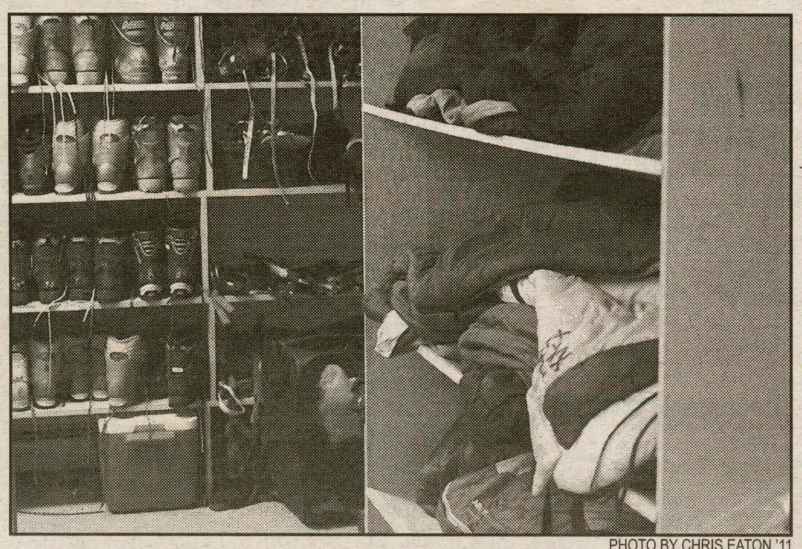

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

A few of the useful outdoor supplies HOC has to offer

HOC has a visible presence both on and off campus. On campus, HOC provides numerous training sessions and activities. In the fall, four sessions in leadership training provide interested students with skills in planning and orchestrating trips, including orienteering and information on gear and clothing. This leadership certification allows students to lead trips of fellow students. However, part of HOC's appeal lies in the trips it offers off-campus, to locales both near and far. If you don't feel inclined to hop on a plane in order to climb a mountain, there are many trips to the Adirondacks, particularly the 46 Peaks Assault, which was widely advertised this past fall. More far-flung regions have included the Carolinas, the Everglades, Big Sur, and most recently, a more extensive trip to Ecuador that students enjoyed over Winter Break. It is an incredible opportunity to visit some of the most beautiful places in the world and perfect for any outdoor enthusiast.

Not only does HOC provide amazing trips, but they provide all the equipment you would ever need. Rather than sending you out into the wilderness solely with your wits, HOC gladly outfits any member of the Hamilton community with everything you could imagine, including kayaks, canoes, cross country skies, back country skies, tents, stoves, fuel, tents, and even hats and gloves for those who came unprepared for the bitter Hamilton winters. Students can borrow the equipment for off-campus trips as well as smaller outings into the beautiful woods surrounding our own stunning campus.

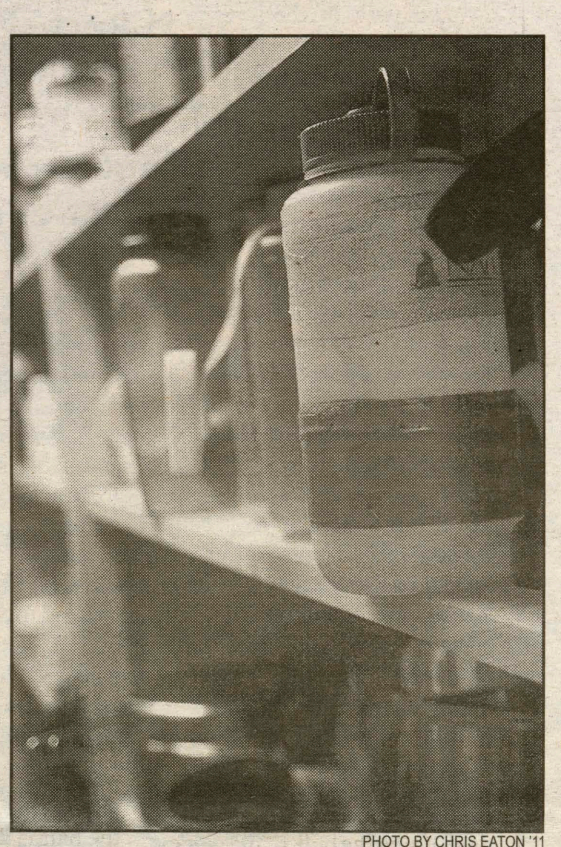

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Perhaps the best part about HOC is that it is open to everyone and no prior skill is necessary to participate in their activities. Peter Woodruff '09, head of the club, explained that "the vast majority of the trips are for people who don't have experience outdoors" and that it's "not at all restrictive." HOC makes it so easy that anyone who enjoys the outdoors should take advantage of the wonderful opportunities they provide and be a part of what is decidedly the most popular group on campus.

How Much For That "A" On My Transcript?

Olivia B. Waxman
FEATURES WRITER

Among the troubles plaguing the world today are the financial crisis, the war on terror, climate change, hunger, poverty, and . . . post-graduate debt?

Indeed, Michael Kopko, CEO of DormAid, a personal laundry and housekeeping service for college students, was appalled to hear that the girlfriend of his brother, Matthew Kopko, was going to graduate $120,000 in debt from her five-year physical therapy program. It was then that he realized, "you are building a business, but not solving a world problem," Kopko explained in an interview with *The Spectator* from his office in Manhattan. "Kids graduating in debt—and the stress of that—is a world problem."

So the two brothers and members of the DormAid team launched the GradeFund at the end of 2008, a website that allows students—from middle schoolers to graduate-degree seekers—to get paid for good grades as tuition prices continue to soar. According to their mission statement, the site's founders hope that such monetary incentives will spawn a "revolution," boosting students' drive and encouraging them to strive for academic excellence, "one A at a time."

In the same way that marathon runners solicit friends and family to pledge money for each mile they run, GradeFund users solicit friends and family to pledge money for every kind of A and B they earn. Ideally, the higher each grade, the more cash students rake in. "Money is just as easily raised in small amounts from lots of people as it is in large amounts from one person," Chief Operating Officer Stephanie Stein explained. "The GradeFund was designed to help students from all corners of the globe, and sponsors are able to give as little as $5.00. If you have 100 sponsors giving $5.00 per A, that adds up very quickly."

At the end of each semester, students upload their transcripts, the GradeFund confirms the grades, and the site sends the spoils to either the schools or the students themselves. To receive checks, students must raise $100.00 or more, though the site will send out checks for sums under $100.00 for a $5.00 charge. Sponsors' credit cards are billed, and the GradeFund takes a 5% chunk out of the accumulated monies, mainly to compensate for credit-card charges.

In addition, individuals and companies can establish "educational causes" to reward students who are pursuing specific areas of study, and the GradeFund will send the money to users who meet those qualifications. "The causes and corporate sponsorships are an additional venue for students to raise money without having to reach into their networks," Stein added. In fact, for every sponsored A, the GradeFund will donate to One Laptop Per Child, a non-profit that distributes low-cost, energy-efficient laptops to the world's poorest children.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS EATON '11

A little goes a long way for the GradeFund

This philanthropic spirit is just one of the many reasons Michael Beck, a freshman at the University of Michigan, has become a die-hard GradeFunder. Since discovering the site from an advertisement on Facebook, he has maintained six sponsors and has accumulated nearly $300 from his first semester grades.

"My parents and grandparents are only supporting me for grades in the A-range, which has motivated me even more to strive for perfection," Beck said. "[Michigan] is a tough school, and this extra motivation has helped me in my pursuit to stand out in a good way in such a large and tough school.

As for anything the website can do better, maybe have a search tool or some way to make it easier to find sponsors or scholarships," he added.

Regardless, the Michigan student is getting pumped for the day employers will be able to search for him on the GradeFund. CEO Kopko told *The Spectator* that he is confident the site's database of uploaded grade reports can be marketed as a wellspring of potential interns and employees, while still safeguarding users' privacy. In fact, there are Hamilton students registered on the site, but its administrators did not release their names to *The Spectator* for privacy reasons.

Yet the GradeFund has already caught the eye of sophomore Scott Kleinklaus. Though he acknowledges that Hamilton gave him an "outstanding" financial aid package, he hopes to pay off his college loans from the profits he makes off stocks that he purchased four years ago for the experience of investing. The budding Economics major admitted that the GradeFund would be a welcome supplement to his portfolio and applauds the use of incentive to motivate students of a generation that craves "instant gratification." Best of all, he says, the incentives are accessible to students "all across the board," both in terms of academic and socio-economic standing.

"When you are in school, awards are the only incentives to work hard, and they are only for the cream of the crop," Kleinklaus explained. "Incentives are just not there, unless you call Mom to hear her say 'Congratulations.'"

Closer Captures Students

by Rebekah Mintzer '09
Senior Editor

"Have you ever seen the human heart? It looks like a fist wrapped up in blood!" exclaims one character in the latter part of Patrick Marber's drama, *Closer*. Romantic love is an emotion to be embraced, feared and reckoned with in the play, performed this past weekend by Untitled @ Large, Hamilton's student theater group. The production, mounted entirely by Hamilton students, contained minimalist sets and costumes but made maximal use of the talents of its four actors, who were faced with the challenge of playing four lovers whose relationships are realistic, heartfelt, and anything but simple.

"It has grace, it is very light, and to be honest - it just needs to be experienced," said Amr Rouvan Mahmud '11 of the show. "It is tough to explain exactly what the play is about. Just when you think the play is one thing, it just keeps hitting you, scene after scene, until you feel like it's never going to stop. And then it suddenly does. Such is life."

In the production, Mahmud played Larry, an honest but rather brutish dermatologist who marries Anna, a photographer, portrayed by Alison McLaughlin '11. Anna has an affair with idealistic obituary writer Dan, played by Rem Myers '11, who is in a relationship with Alice, a stripper with a heart of gold played by Georgia Mierswa '11. The play is structured as a series of brief scenes, sometimes sad and other times slyly funny, between members of the two couples over the course of four years. The interplay between the characters is framed by a concept called Newton's Cradle -- essentially that people's lives are profoundly influenced in a sort of domino effect by people they may have never known or seen.

> **"Closer...gets under the audience's skin... [is] not for the emotionally squeamish [and is]... alert to the cruel inequalities of love."**

This production of the *Closer* however, was a collaborative effort between friends, Mahmud and Mierswa, who shared a passion for Marber's script. After fall break, they began to work on assembling a cast and rehearsing, though it was difficult at times due to their many academic and extracurricular commitments. The group reconvened from winter break a week early to finish the difficult but ultimately fruitful job of shaping their production without a traditional director.

"We got into many, many fights and arguments - but I think that's a good thing," says Mahmud. "You never get too one-track, and every little detail is accentuated to fulfill what we want it to. Once everyone was familiar enough with the script, it definitely became a completely collaborative effort." He adds, "When I say our blood and sweat is shown through this play, I mean it literally."

The effort seems to have paid off as the show played to a packed List 104. Though running under an hour, Untitled's production of Closer contained an incalculable amount of insight into our own "blood-wrapped fists."

Chinese New Year Horoscopes

by Steve Allinger '09
Staff Seer

Rat (1984): Despite your symbols disreputable...reputation, you are hardworking, resourceful, and have the largest testicles proportional to body size in the animal kingdom. Use these attributes to wow your professors and have a very successful academic year. And by these attributes I mean your giant figs.

Ox (1985): Congratulations! We are now in the year of the Ox. For you this means the food will be tastier, the air will be cleaner, and sex will be sexier. Puppies and kitties will flock to you for cuddling only to be trampled to death by horny classmates who want it just a little bit more. Somalian Pirates will beg you to be their king. You are compatible with everybody.

Tiger (1986): According to a vision I had at a Chinese buffet in New Hartford, you are a noble and powerful being. Unfortunately, your future was obscured when I put a plate full of dumplings and sesame chicken on the decorative placemat.

Rabbit (1987): The rabbit is the luckiest of all signs. You can stare directly up at those needle sharp icicles all day and no matter how many grad schools reject you, they just won't fall. I'm a Rabbit, and I've tried.

Dragon (1988): The Dragon is an eccentric and complicated sign. The path of your life will not be conventional, but will lead to riches beyond your imagination. Unfortunately your ambition will dissolve your personal relationships like corrosive acid to the point where clerks in grocery stores will refuse to accept your money, and you will be forced to eat your gold. F**k you Dragon, and stop burning down villages.

Snake (1989): You are clever and cold-blooded, attributes that will help you in this time of economic depression. While others may struggle with love and compassion, you have the strength and foresight to see that there may never be another opportunity to sell your grandparents into sex slavery.

Horse (1990): You are curious and inventive and if you would apply those talents to an area outside the bedroom maybe you would have a job instead of crabs.

Ram (1991): You are generally inclined to blindly follow others, which many see as a bad attribute. But, they can all eat shit when you are competing in the International Marco-Polo championship.

Film Entertains Hamilton Audience

by Matt Nudell '11
Arts & Enertainment Contributer

S.K. Film Series

The Samuel Kirkland Film Society, also known as SK Films, screens a variety of films for the Hamilton Community in the Kirner-Johnson Auditorium. SK Films recently announced the spring 2009 schedule as "The Semester of the Double Feature". Most weekends will feature two movies; "Early Films" will premiere on Friday and Sunday nights at 7 P.M. and on Saturday nights at 8 P.M., while "Late Films" will premiere on Friday and Sunday nights at 10 P.M. and Saturday nights at 11 P.M. Featured films in the 2009 schedule include Academy Award nominated *Frost/Nixon* and *The Wrestler*, as well as the critically acclaimed Clint Eastwood film *Gran Torino*. The society is also screening several film classics including Martin Scorsese's *Mean Streets*, Alfred Hitchcock's thriller *Strangers On A Train*, Federico Felini's *La Dolce Vita*, and John Schlesinger's Academy Award winning *Midnight Cowboy*.

In addition, the Samuel Kirkland Film Society recently hosted the 5th Annual 24- Hour Film Festival, in which students signed up in teams to make short feature films. The film society provided all the teams with a video camera and gave the filmmakers 24 hours to film, edit and submit their movies which were then aired on January 24th. Participants and viewers of this year's festival asserted that the films were "of the highest quality seen in the festival's history" and the event also had a record number of student teams.

Tied in second place with 49 votes was Team JB's melodrama *Porcelain* and Team Pegasus!'s remake, *Free Willy: The Musical*. In first place with 54 votes was Team Evad's documentary *White on White: The Final Days of Larry Gondheim*. Sophomore Jeremy Gleason remarked, "*White on White* was an excellent film that was very witty and well produced". However, he believed that "it was unfortunate that the final film, whose genre was avant-garde, was disqualified" and aseerted that, "The directors of the final film excelled in their use of cinematography to create images that surprised the viewer and challenged the viewer's expectations."

PHOTO BY NATE FEDRIZZI '10.
from **Free Willy: The Musical**

F.I.L.M Series

This spring, Hamilton College will once again be the proud sponsor of the F.I.L.M. series, formally recognized as the Forum for Images and Languages in Motion. Hamilton College Professor of English, Patricia O'Neill, will head the series this semester because Scott MacDonald, who usually runs the series, is teaching at Harvard University. The F.I.L.M. series is dedicated to exhibiting groundbreaking achievements in film, photography and visual arts to college students. All the F.I.L.M. series events are scheduled for Sunday afternoons in the Kirner-Johnson Auditorium at a usual start time of 2:00 P.M. and are open to the public.

This semester's F.I.L.M. series will feature a wide range of topics including Tracy Fullerton's lecture on online video game design (February 22nd), the critically acclaimed Devil Music Ensemble's accompaniment musical performance during the screening of the silent martial art film *Red Heroine* (Feb. 1) and the screening of the revered film documentary *Inis Airc—Bás an Oileáin*, which describes the emotional abandonment of Ireland's island community on Inishark (March 29). On February 14 and 15, the series will screen four documentary films from The Human Rights Watch Film Festival: *The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo* (2007), *Up the Yangtze* (2007), *USA vs Al-Arian* (2007) and T*he Sari Soldiers* (2008).

The F.I.L.M. series is sponsored by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, the Office for Diversity, the Foreman Fund for Educational Innovation, and the New York State Council on the Arts. Nathan Goodale, Martine Guyot-Bender, Kyoko Omori, Patricia R. O'Neill and Brent Plate will curate this semester's F.I.L.M. series events.

Additional information concerning this semester's F.I.L.M. series schedule can be found at http://www.hamilton.edu/FilmSeries/.

LETTUCE HEAD

Presented By Joshua Hicks '09

Results of the 2009 Annual 24 Hour Film Festival: *What the Critics Had to Say*

These three films were fantastic and all very unique. I enjoyed each one immensely and congratulate the casts and directors for a job well done!

If you missed the 24 Hour Film Contest Screening, a compilation disc is being made, so don't worry!

First Place (54 votes)
Team Evad
Documentary
White on White: The Final Days of Larry Gondheim

This film starts with an epic cry, which in my opinion, signaled greatness was underway. Whether comic or obscure (for I found both were perfect adjectives), this documentary, takes a look at a man – an artist – and, as one Cy Fugassi stated, "a visionary." Suffering from illnesses such as the Susan Sontag Syndrome, you see the artist express emotion and compose his work - and you feel his struggle through a compelling soundtrack. This, combined with fantastic camera work, and interviews, this documentary could stand next to Ken Burns' work, that is, if Burns thought himself noble enough. I enjoyed the journey into the artist's mind very much.

Tied for Second Place (49 Votes)

Team JB
Melodrama
Porcelain

Between a surprise birthday party, a lonely smoker, a crazed athlete, and a hardworking cake lover, this film captures a wide variety of emotion. This nearly silent picture is filled with tasteful angst, horror, fear, and suspense like nothing I've ever seen. I actually don't know what else to say, except this film is truly a work of art. Brilliantly shot and composed, you may just poop yourselves. It's that good.

Team Pegasus!
Remake
Free Willy: The Musical

A stellar cast takes on the lonely tale of Jesse, who befriends a whale and must rescue him from evil theme park villains. This film had me rolling and wanting to do a little Backstreet Boys dance move (or two). The musical compositions were also very well done, my favorite being the Charleston / Good Fish, Bad Fish theme. All around, still the same family classic as the original, but with a much better cast. This is true especially of the ever-so-talented sea creature.

Upcoming Events

On Campus

POETRY

Poetry Reading by James Kimbrell on Wednesday, February 4th at 8:00 p .m. in the Fillius Events Barn. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Jane Springer at jspringer@hamilton.edu or 315-859-4540.

JAZZ

Hamilton College Performing Arts presents a performance with Henry Grimes (double bass) and Rashied Ali (drums) on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. in the Fillius Events Barn. This event will be held Saturday, January 31 in the Fillius Events Barn. Tickets are $5. Seating is limited. Call the box office at 859-4331 for tickets or more information.

Off Campus

A CAPELLA

The Stanley Center for the Arts is presenting the Grammy Award winning a cappella group from South Africa, LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO at 7:30pm Wednesday February 4, 2009.
With valid ID card, best available at the time of the sale. This applies to students, faculty, and staff of Hamilton College. To receive the discount, you may also call the box office and say that you are from "Hamilton College" and give the campus address of "198 College Hill Road." The offer will be available up until show time. For more information, visit www.stanleytheatre.net/about/news_releases/index.php?id=421.

Off-Off Campus

SHORT STORY WRITING

On Feb 1, 2009 The Utica Writers Club will begin accepting entries for the Milton and Harriet Shatraw Short Story Contest. The 1st place winners will receive $100; second prize winners will receive $75. All winners get published in a contest booklet and have their story read aloud at a reception. Authors retain all rights to their work. Stories will continue to be accepted until March 7, 2009.
Stories should be sent to:
Milton and Harriet Shatraw Short Story Contest
9562 Roberts Road
Sauquoit, NY 13456

The entry fee for over 18 contestants is $5 per story, and $3 per story for under 18. All checks should be made out to The Utica Writers Club. Stories are restricted in length to 2500 words.

SCREENWRITING

11th Annual Scriptapalooza Screenplay Competition.
First place prize is $10,000. All the judging is done by 90 production companies. We promote the top 13 winners for a full year. Finalists, Semifinalists and quarterfinalists get requested consistently. The regular deadline is March 5. For more information. visit http://www.scriptapalooza.com or call 323-654-5809 or email us at info@scriptapalooza.com.

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TAKEN — LIAM NEESON
●1:15●3:20-5:25-7:30▲9:35
STADIUM SEATING DTS PG-13

NEW IN TOWN — RENEE ZELLWEGER
●12:50●3:00-5:10-7:20▲9:25
HARRY CONNICK JR. PG

the uninvited
●1:40●3:40-5:40-7:40▲9:40
ELIZABETH BANKS DTS PG-13

PAUL BLART: MALL COP — STADIUM SEATING
●12:35●2:50-5:00-7:10▲9:15 #1 MOVIE! DTS PG

UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS
●1:20●3:30-5:35-7:50▲9:55 R

GRAN TORINO ●2:00-4:30-7:00▲9:30 DTS R

HOTEL FOR DOGS ●12:20●2:30-4:40-6:50▲9:00 PG

10 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS-BEST PICTURE, DIRECTOR
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE ●2:10-4:50-7:25▲9:50 R

INKHEART ●1:50-4:20-6:40▲8:55 PG

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Ninth Annual Recyclemania Competition Begins

Hamilton Contingent Focusing on White Paper; Contest Has Expanded Drastically Over Time

by Saad Chaudhry '12
Science & Technology Editor

The ninth annual national collegiate Recyclemania contest officially kicked off on Sunday, Jan. 18, as thousands of active college students from hundreds of large universities such as Harvard University and University Chicago and smaller liberal arts colleges such as Hamilton College, Amherst College, and Williams College begin to more carefully observe their recycling rate in an effort to demonstrate their environmental concerns, but most importantly, to help the environment by setting standards and goals that are otherwise not met without a medium for some friendly competition.

Recyclemania began in February of 2001 as a competitive race to the recycle bins between Ohio University and Miami University (Ohio). Since then, the competition has hooked national attention as more than five hundred other schools from all over the United States have joined in on the intense yet fun way to help protect the environment from the organically non-benign garbage citizens superfluously dispose of every year, regardless of the much more green-friendly method of recycling. The founders of the competition, Ed Newman of Ohio University and Stacy Edmonds Wheeler of Miami University (Ohio) sought inspiration for the competition after they realized it was a rather depressing and tragic case that citizens of intellectual powerhouses—American universities—were incessantly ignoring the simple action of recycling in preference for the tolerance of several tons of waste disposal every month, primarily from the residence and dining halls. They deeply felt that when the students should be questioning and objecting against the status quo and habits of failure, not to mention hazardous potential, they were in fact contributing to the whole mess of irrational, brash, and shortsighted thought. That's why Newman and Wheeler took the initiative, launching not so much a competition, but more of a campaign, that started with solely two institutions, and in less than a decade has exponentially risen to more than half a thousand.

WWW.RECYCLEMANIAC.ORG

The ninth annual Recyclemania competition kicked off on Saturday, and it will span for ten weeks. More than 500 national universities and colleges are taking part in this campaign against unnecessary and environmentally dangerous waste disposal.

The competition continues for a time span of ten weeks, during which "schools report recycling and trash data which are then ranked according to who collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate," according to the competitions website (www.recyclemaniacs.org).

"With each week's reports and rankings, participating schools watch how their results fluctuate against other schools and use this to rally their campus communities to reduce and recycle more."

There are six fairly straightforward goals the competition seeks to achieve, or at least to make consistent strives upon. First, the quite obvious and generic goal is to have a "fair and friendly recycling competition." Second, Recyclemania seeks to "increase recycling participation by students and staff." The third goal is to attempt to educate students about the waste management protocols and recycling programs their schools have to offer. The fourth and perhaps most practical goal the competition holds is to "expand economic opportunities while addressing environmental issues in a positive way." The fifth and perhaps repetitious goal is to "lower waste generated on-campus by reducing, reusing and recycling." Finally, the last and most important goal for any environmental organization's outlook, as Hamilton Environmental Action Group (HEAG) members may know, is to "organize this event successfully so it can be repeated and possibly expanded to other campuses in the future."

The first winner of the competition was Miami University, which won Recyclemania over Ohio University in 2001. In the two years that followed, Bowling Green State University dominated the competition, recycling 52.5 pounds per student for its second victory in 2003. 2004 was a major year for Recyclemania as it partnered with the with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise program; that same year, Miami University made a comeback, sweeping the competition away to win a second title, whilst the competition's organizers won the National Recycling Coalition's Outstanding Recycling Innovation Award for an outstanding effort in taking the initiative towards a greener nation. In 2005, two titles were given away: Miami University won for the Per Capita competition, and California State University San Marcos won the Recycling Rate contest. From 2006 onward, Recyclemania had grown to such a level that the organizers added several more contests, for which the complete results can be found on Recyclemania's website: www.recyclemaniacs.org.

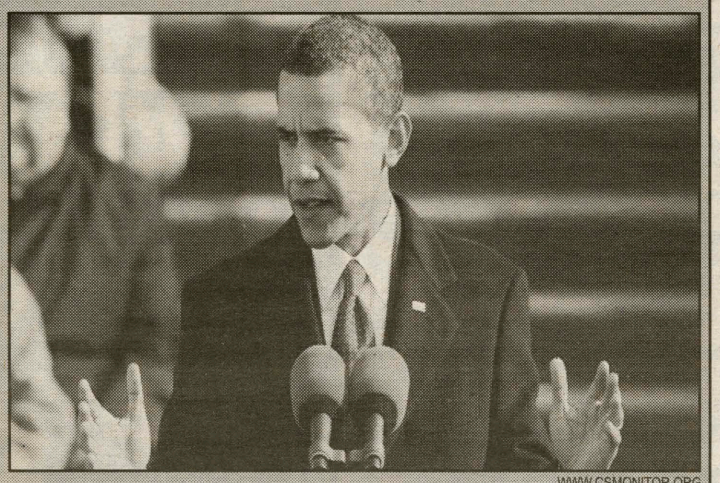
So how did Hamilton College do? Hamilton College placed exceedingly high in 2005, ranking out at 15th with a recycling rate of 27.91 percent. But then Hamilton took somewhat of a u-turn, as it finished 57th in 2007 with a recycling rate of 17.91 percent, and it placed a mere eighth place out of the ten NESCAC participating schools in the Per Capita Classic. Nonetheless, this simply means the time for improvement is now. To learn about tips on how to help Hamilton achieve greater heights in Recyclemania this year, go to the competition's website and Hamilton's own recycling webpage at http://www.hamilton.edu/college/recycling/index.

Obama Faces Science in Policy and Personal Life

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

On a day of historic firsts, newly-inaugurated President Barack Obama delivered a special and long-awaited message to members of the scientific community. "We will restore science to its rightful place," he declared, while his predecessor, George W. Bush, who many science advocates accuse of having stalled the progress of biomedical research in the United States, looked on mutely. On the campaign trail, President Obama pledged he would expand embryonic stem cell research, expand health care coverage, increase funding for the NIH and NASA, and drastically increase federal programs seeking to reduce carbon consumption and slow global climate change, all promises enthusiastically received by the scientific world. The nation's 44th president will now be working out how to achieve the goals he set while campaigning.

Reactions to Obama's speech in the scientific community were enthusiastic. Frank Press, a former president of the National Academy of Sciences and former science adviser to President Jimmy Carter, told the *New York Times*, "If you look at the science world, you see a lot of happy faces." He added, "It's not just getting money. It's his recognition of what science can do to bring this country back in an innovative way." Reaction among those unconnected with science was, predictably, less dramatic. Laura Smith '11, who said she is "not a science person" said she "wasn't sure why he [Obama] would talk about something like that," explaining she was listening for other things in the inaugural speech. Nevertheless, as one Obama official noted to the *Los Angeles Times*, "These changes will eventually effect everyone, whether they follow developments in the scientific community or not."



WWW.CSMONITOR.ORG

President Obama spoke on science at his inauguration.

Science has already played a major role in Obama's first week in office, and it will continue to pervade the administration of a president who is the first to make serious concessions to the Information Age in the way he conducts business in the White House. President Obama will be the first President of the United States to be able to send and receive e-mails directly, and also the first to carry a BlackBerry. This last innovation was strenuously opposed by security officials at first because of the potential threat to sensitive information. The idea was also criticized by certain officials due to the fact that all presidential documents are archived and possibly reviewed by historians

*see **Science**, page 21*

Did You Know That?

Wacky Facts: Raowr!

The Bare Bear Facts

by Elijah LaChance '10
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

• Polar bears are well-adapted to severe cold. Winter temperatures in the far north often plunge to -40° F or -50° F and can stay that way for days or even weeks.

• After feeding, a bear will devote up to fifteen minutes to cleaning itself up. A thorough job is important, as matted and dirty fur is a poor insulator.

• In January and February, the average temperature in the high Arctic is -29° F.

• The word "Arctic" comes from the ancient Greek Arktikos, or "country of the great bear." Though the Greeks had no knowledge of the polar bear, they named the region after the constellation Ursus Major, the Great Bear, found in the Northern Sky.

• A thick layer of blubber (up to 4.5 inches thick) provides polar bears with such excellent insulation that their body temperature and metabolic rate remain the same even at -34°F.

• Of all the animals the Inuit traditionally hunted, Nanuk, the polar bear, was the most prized. Native hunters considered Nanuk to be wise, powerful, and "almost a man." Some called the bear "the great lonely roamer."

• Polar bears generally walk at a leisurely pace to keep from overheating. When a Norwegian scientist, Nils Oritsland, studied a polar bear on a treadmill, he found that his subject would move off the treadmill for short periods of time at higher speeds and would sometimes lie down and refuse to walk at all.

• Polar bears know how to pack on the fat: A single bear can consume 100 pounds of blubber at one sitting.

• On bitterly cold days with fierce winds, polar bears dig out a shelter in a snow bank and curl up in a tight ball to wait out the storm.

• In all instances in which a human was killed by a polar bear, the animal in question was undernourished or had been provoked.

• Churchill, Manitoba, the "Polar Bear Capital of the World," was established in 1717. Since that time, only two townspeople have ever been killed by polar bears, despite numerous encounters.

• In Churchill's early days, any bears that wandered through the town were shot as food for sled dogs.

• Today, most Churchill residents are fond of their polar bears, despite occasional damage. When a bear ambled into the Royal Canadian Legion hall, the club steward shouted, "You're not a member! Get out!" The bear did.

• In all of recorded history, only 19 people have been killed by polar bears in Russia.

• When the Inuit tribe killed a polar bear, the only part that was not used was the liver. This organ was immediately thrown out, as it could make even the sled dogs violently ill.

• Each paw on an adult polar bear measures up to 12 inches across. The polar bear's large paws help distribute the animal's weight when it is treading on thin ice.

• Scientists believe that the polar bear is a descendant of the brown bear. It is thought to be the most recent of the eight bear species.

• The polar bear's scientific name is *Ursus maritimus,* which means "sea bear."

"WE WILL RESTORE SCIENCE TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AND WIELD TECHNOLOGY'S WONDERS TO RAISE HEALTH CARE'S QUALITY AND LOWER ITS COSTS. WE WILL HARNESS THE SUN AND THE WINDS AND THE SOIL TO FUEL OUR CARS AND RUN OUR FACTORIES. AND WE WILL TRANSFORM OUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF A NEW AGE."

~ BARACK OBAMA

PROFESSOR PROFILE

Peter Millet, Physics

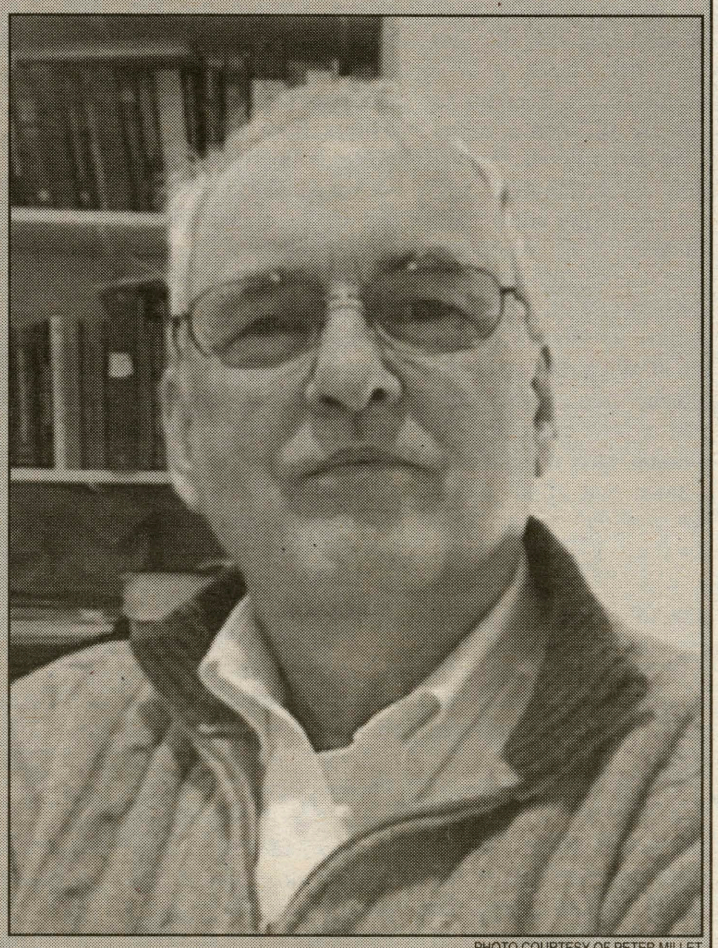


PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER MILLET

Elijah LaChance: If you were to describe yourself in three words, what would they be?

Peter Millet: Tall, dark, handsome, numerate.

EL: What areas of physics most interest you and why?

PM: Many areas interest me, but often the many-body problem has been lurking in the vicinity of whatever I'm studying. In the many-body problem, phenomena occur that can only be understood as the result of many identical bodies interacting. But, sometimes, "many" has meant just more than two. For example, my graduate thesis was on a form of three-body problem in a quantum mechanical form and just a few years ago I supervised an excellent thesis on the three-body problem in the solar system. Also, a course I always enjoy teaching is on thermodynamics and statistical physics—there the emphasis is all about what happens in large collections of particles. Another course I have enjoyed teaching for many years is astronomy. It constitutes a wonderful collection of physics applications. Its many resonances with history help ground it in students' education outside the sciences.

EL: How did you eventually choose to teach physics for a living?

PM: In the early years of graduate school I did summer work at IBM and then Avco Corporation and I anticipated working in industry after completing my Ph.D. in theoretical physics. Eventually the academic atmosphere and what I saw as its capacity to afford personal growth and to permit continued study of physics attracted me in greater measure than industry.

EL: Why Hamilton?

PM: Late in the spring of '68 I had solved the central problem of my thesis, but I still needed to write it all up in polished form and defend it when a position opened up at Hamilton College. I thought that was a great opportunity to try the teaching profession while I was preparing the final version of my thesis. Fortunately, I was offered the job. I immediately got to teach some wonderful students, hard working, bright, and quick, and that has continued right up to the present. I was hooked!

EL: What is your funniest/most entertaining childhood memory?

PM: I don't think I would call these things funny or entertaining but I do have a number of memories of which I am very fond. Given the questions about my profession I should mention my uncle Theo (on whose behalf I root for the Dutch team in the World Cup!). He was patient enough to teach me how to play chess while I was fairly young so we could have regular games after school. As a very young man he had been a school teacher in Holland and then, because of his talent for technical inventions, went on to work as an engineer. The school teacher part of him surfaced often. He gave me my first physics book and taught me the basics of electronics and optics. It is most likely because of him that I was oriented towards studying physics in college and grad school. He loved to talk and, after a chess game he would often tell me stories of his adventures or of his inventions or of his views on history. I spent many rainy Manhattan afternoons listening to him.

EL: Do you have any habits students might notice? If so, what are they?

PM: Funny you should ask. I see a wonderful spectrum of verbal tics and pirouettes in my colleagues, but I am remarkably free of these. Curious.

EL: What is your favorite band/singer, your favorite ice cream flavor, your favorite book, and your favorite home-cooked meal?

PM: Band: La Bottine Souriante. Singer: Renee Fleming. Ice cream: coffee. Book: Before the Dawn: Recovering the Lost History of Our Ancestors, by Nicholas Wade. Favorite food: My mother-in-law's soups and my wife's rice dishes (Persian and Middle Eastern cooking generally).

EL: Other than the Science Center, where can students expect to see you on campus?

PM: There's somewhere else on campus?

EL: What are your current research interests, and how might students be working with you on them?

PM: Among other things, I am interested in a field known by the somewhat obscure name of complexity. It's connected to the multi-body problem I mentioned before, but generalized to allow for the modeling of systems with multiple identical or similar agents interacting according to certain rules, usually simple. For example, a recent graduate, Olamide Harrison, worked on the simulation of traffic flow using simple cellular automata. He found he could get traffic jams as well as other features of real traffic flow. I describe student work done with me in greater detail at http://physerver.hamilton.edu/People/pmillet/

EL: What do you enjoy most about being a member of the Hamilton community?

PM: Being able to connect with the people here, faculty, students, staff, with such curiosity, knowledge, liveliness, passion, skill—they're electric!

EL: What are some of your interests outside Hamilton?

PM: My family and friends are my preeminent interests outside the College.

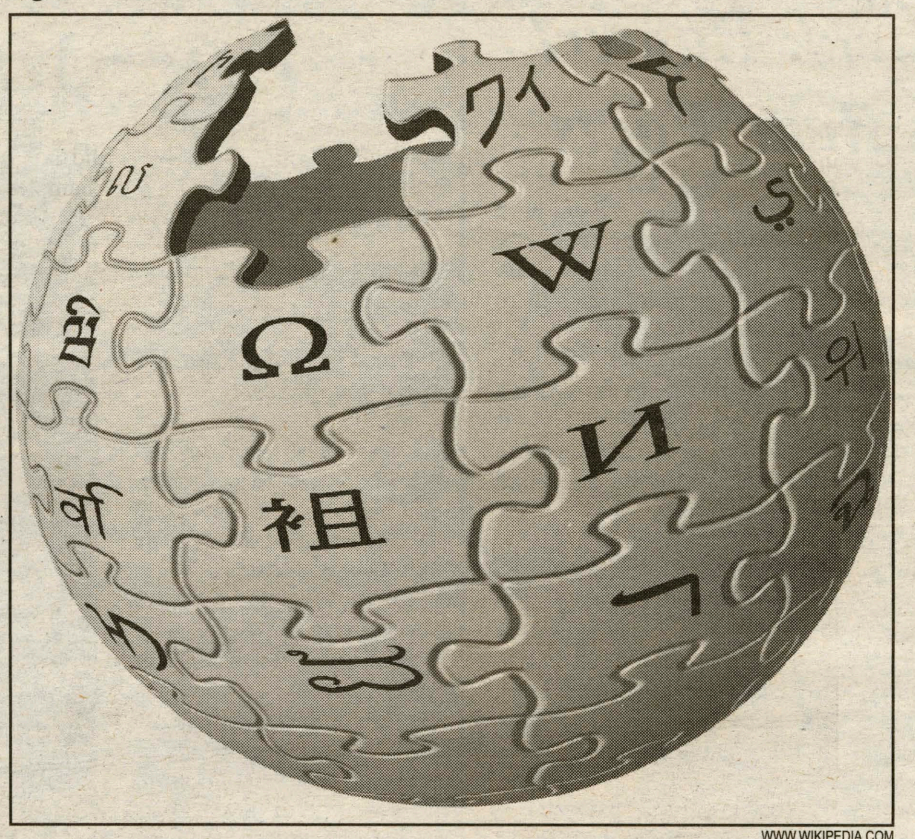
Wikipedia: Everyone Can Edit... Or Can They?

by Yinghan Ding '12
Science & Technology Writer

When people talk about Wikipedia, the first thing that comes to their minds is the freedom to edit by all internet users. That is partly the reason why most Hamilton professors do not allow their students to use Wikipedia entries as reliable academic resources. With 2,716,740 entries in English at last count, Wikipedia - with the slogan "free encyclopedia that anyone can edit" - is about to have a significant change that might throw its previous slogan into the trash. With the characteristic of being editing by anyone freely, Wikipedia has caused some serious problems that forced itself to consider restricting the public's ability to change entries.

When Wikipedia was first created, it was written collaboratively by volunteers from all around the world, which suggested the idea that anyone could edit it. According to the entries in Wikipedia about Wikipedia itself, it says that "since its creation in 2001, Wikipedia has grown rapidly into one of the largest reference Web sites, attracting at least 684 million visitors yearly by 2008. There are more than 75,000 active contributors working on more than 10,000,000 articles in more than 260 languages." According to their statistics, every day, hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world collectively make tens of thousands of edits and create thousands of new articles to augment the knowledge held by the Wikipedia encyclopedia. Its fundamental theory that "anyone, despite knowledge level, can contribute and edit entries" attracts people all over the world to build this huge encyclopedia, an encyclopedia that is written not entirely by scholars but by common people as well.

However, Wikipedia is not problem-free. Just recently, some vandals changed Wikipedia entries to erroneously report that Senators Edward Kennedy and Robert Byrd had died. The incident set off a huge upsurge of criticism that questioned Wikipedia's policy of letting anyone edit the site. Facing the pressure from influential politicians, Wikipedia is finally ready to introduce the new system that will prevent new and anonymous users from instantly publishing changes to Wikipedia.



WWW.WIKIPEDIA.COM

The new system is called "Flagged Revisions." It will allow only registered, reliable users to have their material immediately appear in the Wikipedia entries that are shown to the general public. This system does not restrict entries from "unreliable users," but instead will delay their entries until one of the reliable users flags the revisions. However, there is hardly any way to measure the reliability of different users, which makes the classification of reliable and unreliable rather ambiguous. The judgments of the "reliable users" could also be potentially questionable.

Is it really necessary to have this new system? The revised system has been used by German Wikipedia as a test. As a result of the eight-month-long experiment, over 95 percent of all the entries by "unreliable users" have been flagged. A poll show that about 60 percent of Wikipedians are in favor of this new proposal, but others worry about the length of the delay might be too long. It takes as long as three weeks before an article's revision appears on the site to all visitors, according to the experiment in Germany.

Is the new system working? Although Jimmy Wales, the mastermind of Wikipedia, says that "Nonsense [such as the Senator stunt] would have been 100 percent prevented by Flagged Revisions," it does not appear to have had that satisfactory of a result. How many of these statements (which are now displayed on Wikipedia) are true? Some examples I was able to find include, "Life is discovered on Mars!" "Bush is confirmed for Obama cabinet post!" "*NY Times* and *NY Post* merge editorial staffs!" "Latest internet worm was released by Dick Cheney!" "Kim Jong Il is dead!" Although the flagged revision system has not been put into use in the English entry system yet, in certain senses it seems wise for Wikipedia to consider it as soon as possible. The cost of this new program would be high; it could possibly discourage new, fresh, motivated contributors, and there are concerns it might dry out the project in the long run. There would definitely be tradeoffs in either case, and Wikipedians everywhere will have to wait to see the final decision by the Wikipedia Foundation.

Luckily, most internet users are wise enough to understand that not everything on the internet, or specifically on Wikipedia, is reliable.

Science Strikes Home for Obama Household

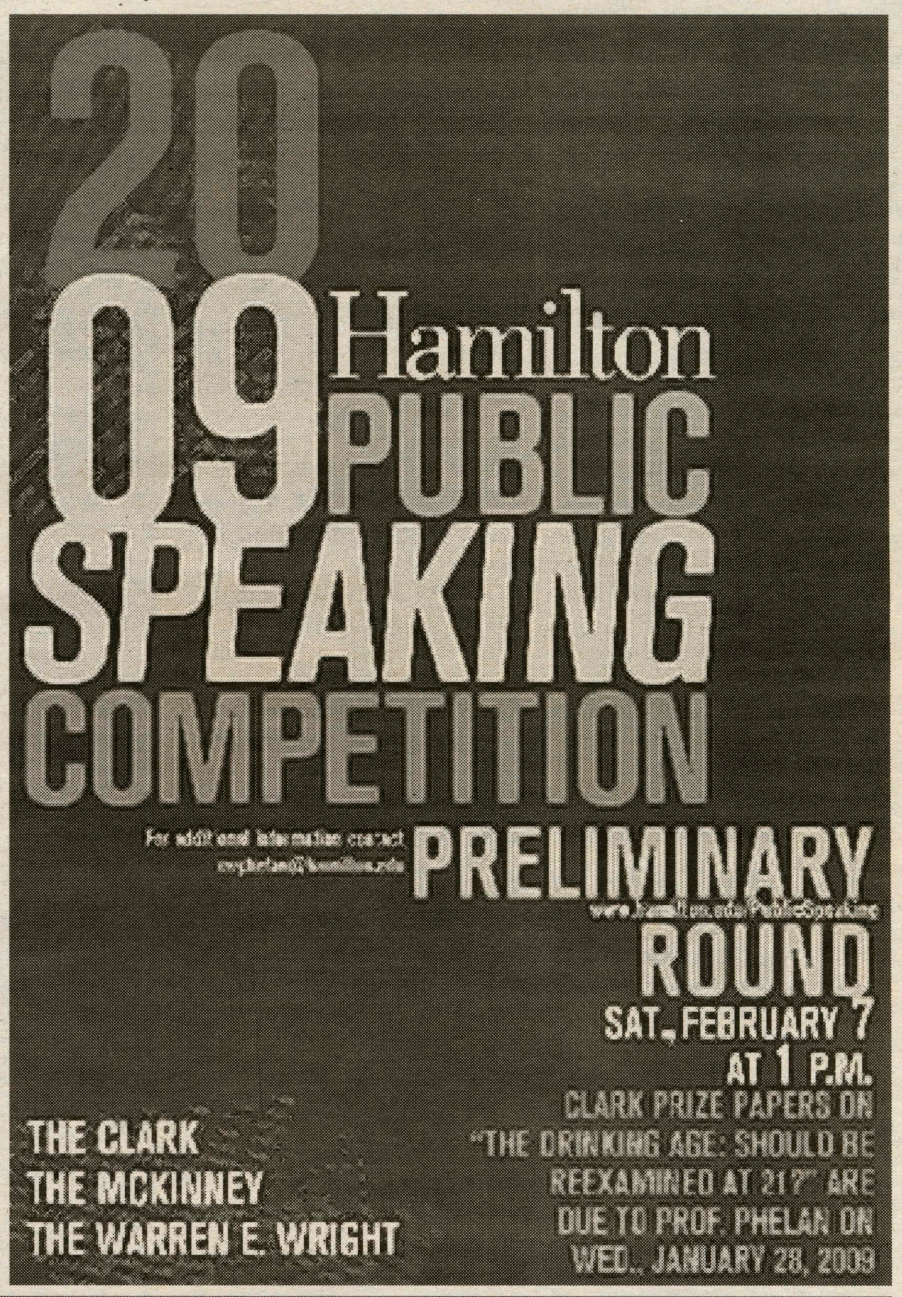
from ***Obama,*** *page 12*

years later. Most are also subject to subpoena during the President's time in office. Messages on a BlackBerry fall under these documentation laws. However, upon pressure from President Obama, security officials have provided him with a specially-outfitted BlackBerry including unspecified security features meant to protect potentially sensitive communications. In addition, both of Obama's daughters will carry similarly decked out cell phones to classes at Sidwell Friends School, where they will attend while the family is in residence in Washington, D.C.

When informed of Obama's BlackBerry and e-mail arrangements, even people not normally aquainted with technology issues expressed understanding mixed with concern. Smith '11 conceded that the BlackBerry was "probably a necessary thing" for Obama, but added that "that information, just floating around... that scares me."

Despite the extremely modern feel of Obama's presidential campaign, his staff arrived on Inauguration Day to find out-of date computers, masses of cords, and servers and interfaces that did not correspond or work well together, according to reports from Obama officials to the *Christian Science Monitor.* Of course, the previous Bush administration, taking office in 2001, used relatively older technology than the Obama transition teams were used to, and former President Bush himself did not use e-mail while in office; in fact, Bush sent a final e-mail to his friends before assuming office letting them know that he would not be able to communicate with them outside of official channels while he was President, a sad irony in becoming "the most powerful person on the planet."

On Obama's first day in office, it took over 16 hours until the official White House website was updated to reflect the executive orders the newly-inaugurated President had signed in the early morning. "The President has not signed any executive orders," the site proclaimed. Between stem cells and cell phones, scientific and technological concerns and decisions will remain major fixtures in President Obama's tenure as these issues more and more pervade the daily lives of ordinary citizens. In addition to the economic situation and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, many Americans will be eagerly awaiting Obama's policy decisions, while White House-watchers will be soaking up details of the President's new BlackBerry as eagerly as they will be observing the behavior of the Obamas' new puppy.



Titles, Players and Red Devils: The History of Manchester United

by Daniel Hagemeier '12
Sports Editor

During the coming months of the spring semester 2009, the sports section of *The Spectator* will present you with the history and background of the most well known soccer league - the English Premier League. We will cover teams like Arsenal London, the FC Liverpool, or the FC Chelsea and give you everything you need to know. We will kick off this series with a story about one of the greatest teams in England's sport history: Manchester United.

The Manchester United Football Club, widely known as the Red Devils, was officially founded in 1878 as the Newton Heath L&YR F.C. After almost going bankrupt in 1902, the club received a major financial investment and was renamed Manchester United. In 1906, the club was promoted from the Second to the First Division. Only two years later, they won their first championship. In 1909, they also won their first of so far 11 FA Cup titles. Manchester United went on to win the First Division title again in 1911, in the same season when their stadium Old Trafford was opened. After leading 3-0, the Red Devils gave up four goals to visiting Liverpool to lose their first game in their new stadium. However, this title was their last for the following 41 years. During that time span, Manchester United was relegated to the Second Division three times, managing to be promoted again later on.

After World War II, Matt Busby was appointed as team manager. He became the first manager who was responsible for both managing and coaching. After finishing second in three consecutive seasons from 1947 to 1949, the club finally won the First Division title in 1952. In the following years, Busby installed a rigorous policy of bringing in young players, later referred to as the Busby Babes. This move paid high dividends as they won four more league titles and one FA Cup title between 1955 and 1967. Manchester United also became the first English team to play in the European Cup, the predecessor of the Champions League, where they lost to Real Madrid in semifinals. They were also the first English team to win the European Cup in 1968 with a team that included one of England's most famous soccer players, George Best.

In 1971, manager Matt Busby stepped down from his position. None of his first replacements proved to be nearly as successful. In 1974, Manchester United was even relegated to the Second Division, although they managed to be promoted again only one year later. In the following years, the club vanished in midfield obscurity, although they won the FA Cup once more in 1977. However, things started to change again in 1981 when Ron Atkinson was promoted manager of the team. But even though Manchester managed to win two FA Cup titles under Atkinson's lead, they still did not win any more league championships.

Ron Atkinson was sacked in 1986 and on the same day replaced by Sir Alex Ferguson. In the first years of his reign, the club didn't reach expectations and Ferguson was on the verge of being fired. He did manage to stay in charge and led the team to another FA Cup title in 1990. Manchester was also allowed to play in the UEFA Cup for the first time in 1991 after beating Barcelona in the Cup Winners' Cup final. In the same year, the club also floated on the London Stock Exchange with a value of £47 million. After the addition of Eric Cantona, Manchester United finally won their first Premier League title in 1993. The team signed Roy Keane in the offseason and won their first "Double" in 1994 when they won the Premier League and FA Cup title. Because the team could not win another trophy in 1995, Ferguson started his own policy of integrating young players and promoted players like David Beckham, Gary and Phil Neville and Paul Scholes from the Manchester United Youth Team to the First Team. Accordingly, the team won their second "Double" in 1996. They won another league title in 1997.

In the 1998-99 season, Manchester United became the most successful team in British soccer history by winning the Treble: the Premier League, the FA Cup, and the Champions League, where they scored two goals in the last two minutes of the game to win 2-1 against Bayern Munich. They also went on to win the Intercontinental Cup.

Following the Treble, Manchester United went on to win five more Premier League titles, one FA Cup title and one Champions League title up to this date. The club is currently owned by Malcolm Glazer, an American businessman, who bought the team between 2003 and 2005 and who is also the owner of the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. This season's first team features players like Christiano Ronaldo, Edwin van der Saar, Rio Ferdinand, Wayne Rooney, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Carlos Tévez. Manchester United leads the English Premier League at the moment, currently 50 points ahead of Chelsea and Liverpool.

WWW.XANGA.COM

Wayne Royne & Co. play for one of the mos successful soccer teams of the world.

America's Game Explained: Football Rules for Dummies

by Brooke Rayder '11
Sports Writer

When you think of the Superbowl, you might think about food, friends and of course the commercials. But some people, the ladies mostly, lack an understanding of football, so sitting through four hours of terrible commentating and boob shots can be painful.

Luckily, CBS cannot go more than a minute of showing the game before switching to a commercial, so there is plenty of time to catch up on the technicalities of the game. But for beginners, here are a few things you should know:

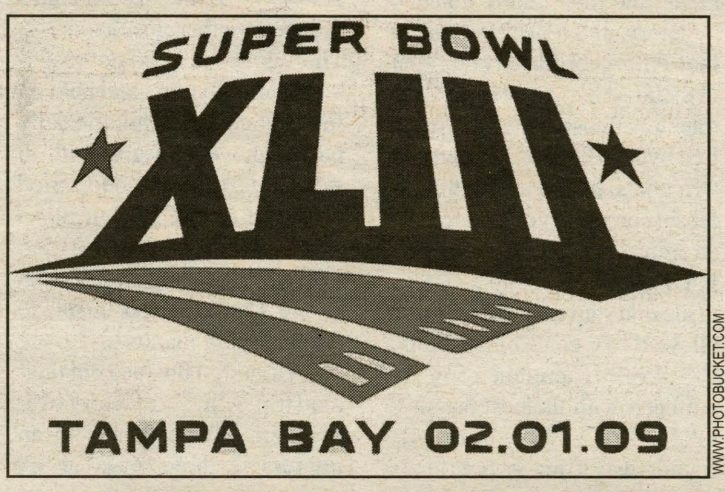
1) **Downs**. After the kick-off, the receiving team has to advance ten yards on the field in three or four attempts. So if the kick is returned to the 35-yard line, the offense has to get to the 45-yard line before the 4th down. The 4th down is the last down, and the offense can either take the risk and attempt to get to the next 1st down marker, or punt the ball away. If the offensive team chooses to "go for it" on the 4th down and fails, the other team takes over at the spot where the offense had the ball. Therefore, a team is much less likely to risk a 4th down play on its own half of the field, because if it fails the other team is in a good position to score.

2) **The line of scrimmage**. Play starts from a specific point each down. After each play, the referees place the ball where they believe the ball carrier (receiver or running back) lands. The offensive linemen line up where the ball is placed. The defensive line has to stay on the opposite line of scrimmage. However, there is a small "neutral zone" where only the center, the player who snaps the ball to the quarterback, can have any part of his body. If another player, offensive or defensive, enters the neutral zone, that team is penalized. All players must remain at or behind their respective line of scrimmage before the ball is put in to play.

3) **Penalties**. The main penalties are holding, personal foul, pass interference, false start and offside. Holding occurs when the offensive line prevents the defensive players from getting near the quarterback by holding them back in some way. This is often a controversial call and results in a ten-yard penalty. Personal fouls, including unnecessary roughness or face masks, result in 15-yard penalties. Pass interference, and a defensive player is not allowed to hit or push a receiver before he has caught the ball. This can be both offensive and defensive. Defensive pass interference results in the ball getting placed at the foul's location (assuming the ball is catchable, the receiver would have caught the ball). Offside is when a defensive player moves before the center snaps the ball, and false start is when an offensive player moves before the ball is in play. Both result in five-yard penalties.

4) **Basic positions** – there are 11 people on the field for each team, one group for offense, the other for defense.

- Quarterback – the player that runs the offense
- Center – snaps the ball to the quarterback.
- Guards – on the right and left of the center, they protect the quarterback and create openings for running backs.
- Tackles – see Guards.
- Tight Ends – block on the outside of the offensive line; also involved as a receiver.
- Wide Receivers – catch passes from the quarterback.
- Running Back – runs the ball through gaps created by the guards and tackles when the quarterback hands him the ball. He can also act as a receiver.
- Safeties and Cornerbacks - safeties set up behind the line of scrimmage in order to anticipate the moves of wide receivers, the running back, and the quarterback. Cornerbacks line up with the two wide receivers at the line of scrimmage. There are two safeties and two cornerbacks.
- Defensive tackles, defensive ends, linebackers – there are two of each, and they all want to tackle the quarterback for a loss of yardage.



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SPECTATOR SPORTS

January 29, 2009

Fire and Ice: Women's Hockey Heats Up in 2009

By Kate Greenough '09
Sports Editor

With only a third of their 2008-2009 season left, the women's ice hockey team is skating smoothly towards a winning record. With seven wins, seven losses and two draws, the team has improved drastically from last season's 6-15-4 overall finish.

Veteran players credit the team's successes to new first-year players. Assistant captain and team goalie Meg Shine '10 describes the team dynamic: "we've learned a lot of lessons since last year. The freshmen are a great addition because they mesh well with the team, bring a lot of hard work on the ice and are awesome kids off the ice! I think the biggest difference for us this season is that we are all finally on the same page. The team comes before any individual and you can just tell going into games that people are willing to put it all on the line."

Senior captain and defender Kate Marek '09 attributes the Continentals' improvement to a newfound sense of tenacity: "Compared to last season, we are definitely a much more hard working team and we have developed the reputation in our league as being the team that never gives up. The freshmen this year have definitely contributed to this mentality and have made such a difference in our team chemistry on and off the ice."

Even though the Continentals collectively contribute to team wins, several team standouts have given the women an edge in the fierce NESCAC competition. Stephanie Miguel '11, a forward, leads the NESCAC league in offensive performance with 16 goals and a 0.88 goal-per-game average. "I worked hard over the summer to improve on different areas of my game," Miguel explains.

Humbly, Miguel does not take sole ownership of her high level of play. Echoing Marek, she mentions the team's support and aggressive mindset as key: "I am most proud of our team's work ethic day in and day out. Whether we are taking a beating from a nationally-ranked team or prevailing over another, we keep working and don't give up."

On the heels of Miguel, forward Amy Allen '10 is listed as fifth in the NESCAC in average goals, with a 0.56 goals-per-game average. Hamilton also tops the league in individual power play goals per game (Miguel with 0.31), assist scoring (Marek with a 1.00 average per game), and defenseman scoring, held also by Marek with 1.06 points-per-game average.

The spirit of the women's team is strong, but their resiliency will be tested with several upcoming competitions against nationally ranked teams, namely the Amherst Jeffs, who lead with an impressive record of 10-3-0 in the NESCAC League, and the Middlebury Panthers, who boast a 9-1-3 overall record. The teams, both nationally ranked, "are very outstanding and the games will be very competitive," Miguel notes.

To step up to the challenge, the coaching staff is focusing on high-pressure, game scenario drills that coaches hope will translate into an aggressive strategy on ice. "We are being taught to be the first to get to that loose puck, battle in the corners, and to keep that hunger alive throughout the entire game. Every day we push each other to be better than the last and we are always working to improve," says Miguel.

"Middlebury and Amherst are always very tough opponents, but we always try to go into every game with the same mentality--not overlooking our opponents, as well as not being intimidated," Marek states.

Jan. 27 marked the first of five home games for the Continentals, a match against SUNY Potsdam for a 4-0 win. On Jan. 30, the women will face Connecticut College, to whom they had narrowly lost to in a 2-3 defeat early in the season. Come to the Sage to support the team as they crush Conn. College on home ice at 7 p.m.!

WWW.SMUGMUG.COM

Goalie Meg Shine '10 focuses on the puck as Buffalo attacks the goal.

RAGE in the SAGE

Upcoming Hockey Home Games:
MEN: Feb. 6 vs. Bowdoin at 7:00 p.m. - Feb 7. vs. Colby at 3:00 p.m.
WOMEN: Jan. 1 vs. Amherst at 4:00 p.m. - Feb. 6 vs. Bowdoin at 4:00 p.m - Feb 7. vs. Colby at 7:00 p.m.

RAGE in the SAGE

Men's Hockey Has Rough Return From Break

by Ayush Sani '11
Sports Writer

After ending 2008 with an impressive record of 4-2-1, the men's hockey team has dropped seven of nine to start the new year, bringing their total record to 6-9-1 and their league record of 5-6-0. Hamilton played their first six games of 2009 on the road, visiting SUNY Oswego, Babson College, UMass Boston, Amherst, Salem State and University of Southern Maine. The road trip was tough on the Continentals but they managed to scrape out two wins. All the games were relatively close, with the biggest gaps being a 0-3 loss to Babson and 5-2 win over UMass Boston.

The first game of the road trip brought the team to nationally ranked No. 10 SUNY Oswego. Hamilton played a close game but ultimately fell 2-1 after giving up two power-play goals late in the second and third period, respectively. Vaclav Tomicek '10 scored for the Continentals. The team was blanked on all five of their power plays.

The next loss at Babson College was decided in the second period, where Hamilton gave up all three goals and was out-shot 17-5. While the power-kill did its job, the offense struggled and was unable to capitalize on six power plays.

After losing three games in a row, leading back to before the break, the men finally notched a victory, and a decisive one at that. After scoring only one goal in their last two games, the Continental offense came out strong. Led by Joe Buicko '11, who had two goals and an assist, the offense scored five goals and put up an impressive 41 shots. Goalie Ian Stearns '10 put up a victory in his first start of the season and allowed two goals on 26 shots.

While Hamilton came to Amherst with the best penalty-kill in NESCAC, the Lord Jeffs found a way to put in three goals on power plays, giving the Continentals another conference loss at a score of 3-1. Hamilton once again scored the first goal of the game in the second, but by the end of the period, found themselves down 2-1. Amherst put in the insurance goal in the waning minutes of the third, bringing their total power play stats to 3-8 in the game. The Hamilton power play once again struggled going 0-8 on the night.

Despite out-shooting Salem State 39-19, the Continentals dropped another close game 3-4. The Vikings jumped out to a 2-0 lead after the first and held on for the victory. Hamilton finally put in a power play goal with 35 seconds left in the second period making the score 2-3, but after a shorthanded goal with 5:21 left in the third to bring the deficient to one, Hamilton was unable to find the tying marker.

Hamilton finished out their road trip with a 3-1 victory over Southern Maine thanks to an impressive three goals in six minutes at the beginning of the second period. Tomicek scored again, giving him four goals in the six-game road trip. Stearns almost shut out the offense, but finally let one in with 1:46 left in the third. The Continentals continued to impress on the penalty kill, stopping Southern Maine in all four attempts.

After a tough road trip, Hamilton has found little solace at home, dropping all three games since coming back. The first loss came to nationally ranked No. 6 Elmira College. The Soaring Eagles had little trouble putting away the Continentals, scoring six goals in the third period for an 8-0 win. The game marked the first time Hamilton had let up more than four goals in a game.

After a disappointing return to Sage Rink, the Continentals lost their next two games, both in heartbreaking overtime fashion. The first loss came to Skidmore, who put the game away with only 53 seconds left in OT. While Hamilton led 2-1 after the first two periods, they gave up 18 shots in the third and finally gave up the tying goal with 5:08 left in regulation. Scott Hefferman '11 returned to the net and played well, making 41 saves.

The next game played out similarly, with Hamilton leading after the third but finally falling in the five-minute sudden death overtime for a 4-5 loss to Castleton State College. Leading scorer Chris Lorenc '10 had three assists on goals by Buicko, forward Tom Chiapetta '11, and forward Ryan Guiren '11. Up by two, the Continentals gave up the third and fourth goals only 44 seconds apart halfway into the third and gave up the game-winner almost a minute into overtime. Hefferman '11 left the game in the third after an injury and was replaced by Stearns who made 10 saves.

Hamilton's return from break hasn't been the best, but the Continentals are still ranked 6th in the conference and have more important games on the way.